

# MICHIGAN FARMER

VOLUME XV.

DETROIT, DECEMBER, 1857.

NUMBER 12.

R. F. JOHNSTONE, Editor.

## THE MICHIGAN FARMER.

Published monthly by ROBERT F. JOHNSTONE, Detroit, Mich.  
Office on Jefferson Avenue, No. 130 Agricultural Rooms,  
Next door to Peninsular Bank.

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For any number of copies not exceeding four.....\$1 00 each  
For a club of any number from five to ten.....80 cts "  
For clubs of any number not less than ten.....75 cts "  
All letters to be addressed to ROBERT F. JOHNSTONE, Detroit Mich., (post paid.)

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## The Feeding of Milk Cattle.

When at Kalamazoo during the past month, we were informed by A. Y. Moore, Esq., that his partner had been obliged during the past winter, to import from Indiana, over three thousand pounds of butter, for consumption, and that he had not been able to procure enough on that vicinity, for the farmers around did not make enough for a home supply. We ask, is not this a remarkable statement to be true of a section so remarkably rich in every element of agricultural wealth as that surrounding the village of Kalamazoo? But it is not extraordinary; the same may be said of every section. In the times when the spinning wheel and the loom, were necessary articles of furniture in the household, there was more butter and cheese made, than there is now. The cheap produce of the factories seems not only to have piled up the loom and spinning wheel in the garret, but to have disposed of the dairymaids with all their accompaniments of milk pails, pans, churns, cheese presses, and the active industry which kept them supplying the demand for dairy produce. It is a well known fact that we import a very large proportion of the cheese consumed in the State, and though it was generally supposed that we made butter enough to consume at home, the above statement of Mr. Moore, shows that even for this article we are in a measure indebted to our neighbors. This is all wrong, and we think is owing not so much to a want of industry in farmers' wives and daughters as to a deplorable want of attention on the part of farmers to their milk stock, and especially to the principles of feeding it.

If a farmer have a pair of cattle, and he neither wants them to work nor to make beef, he feeds them enough to keep them in condition, but whenever he wants them for a long pull of steady work, he begins to give them food in quantities that will not only support them, but will also supply all that they waste by muscular exertion. If he does not feed in that way the cattle will not only lose flesh, but at last will become so weak that they cannot perform a

full days work, so that the farmer suffers pecuniarily in two ways by this attempt at being saving—for the cattle decrease in value, and their work is also less in amount than it should be. Every farmer will exclaim, "The man who does business in that way, is unwise, and imprudent, as well as ignorant of his true interests;" yet it is very probable, that the same process of depreciation is going on in their own barnyards amongst their milch cows.

What is milk? Is it not a certain amount of raw material, produced by the animal either from a surplus of food, or by a waste of the actual substance of the body. If the animal has a surplus of food and is able to consume it, its body suffers no diminution, nor does the supply of milk; but when it has only a sufficiency of food to support the waste constantly going on from vital action, the supply of milk is only yielded at the expense of the carcase, and the farmer loses at both ends, the cows depreciating in value, and the yield of milk being less and less, until it is utterly dried off, and there is nothing left but a skin and a skeleton.

It is no unusual incident to have a farmer point out to us one of these specimens of skin and skeleton as the best cow he has in his yard for milk, with the remark, that "she is a splendid cow when she is in flesh, or before calving, but that as soon as she calves, she runs all to milk, and becomes as poor as a crow." Now the fact is that the cow is really a valuable animal probably, and is willing to do all that can be asked to be profitable. She has large organs for secreting milk, which will act while ever there is anything left for them to work upon, and when the food does not supply it, they draw upon the body. Such a cow as that is not rightly fed, hence the reason she becomes thin and loses flesh after calving. Her milk secreting organs are not supplied with all the material which they can use, and the consequence is that they use up the cow. Let us look at the speed with which they use it?

A cow that will weigh 800 pounds, ought to consume about 20 pounds of the best hay per diem to keep her so that she will neither gain nor loose, supposing she gives no milk, nor does any kind of work whatever. Now a cow that gives ten quarts of milk per day, it is evident, ought to have enough food over and above that, of the right kind, to enable her to furnish that quantity of milk. What is the food which will do that? The composition of the milk will tell. Milk, according to the analysis of Haidlen which is the best known, contains in 1000 parts:

Water .....	873.00
Butter .....	30.00
Casein .....	48.20
Milk sugar .....	43.90
Phosphate of Lime .....	2.31
Mineral matters .....	2.59
	1000.00

So that in 10 quarts or 20 pounds of milk we would have of solid matter, 2.60, which would be composed as follows:

Butter .....	0.625 lbs
Casein .....	1.000
Milk sugar .....	0.875
Phosphate of lime .....	0.045
Mineral matters .....	0.065
	2.6

In addition therefore to the 20 pounds of hay, there should be fed to the cow, substances containing from 25 to 30 per cent of materials which will easily form the above elements, and which also will be so palatable that she will be induced to consume them readily. As an instance of the truth of this, we give the result of an experiment made with three cows, which calved about the same time, and were each treated differently.

No. 1. On the 1st of January or about three weeks after calving, gave 15½ quarts of milk per day, and weighed 980 pounds. She was fed 28 pounds of hay per day, and in nine weeks lost 84 pounds of flesh, and fell off to 9½ quarts of milk per day.

No. 2. At the same date gave 12 quarts, and weighed 840 pounds. She was fed 18 pounds of hay 45 pounds of turnips, and 9 pounds of ground oats for four weeks, when the ration of ground oats was discontinued. Then she lost in both flesh and milk, and at the end of the nine weeks, she lost 28 pounds of flesh, and gave but 6½ quarts of milk.

No. 3. Gave 15½ quarts of milk per day, and weighed 1092 pounds. She was fed with a steamed mixture of cut hay and straw, oat chaff, turnips, bran, meal, and rape cake, which actually cost less than the feed of No. 2, by about 20 cents for the nine weeks. At the end of the trial, she had gained in flesh 56 pounds, and her milk averaged 12½ quarts per day.

To keep a cow fully up to her milk, rating it at 10 quarts per day, it has been estimated, that it would need over and above the amount of hay required for her necessary maintenance, 10 lbs. of hay to supply the casein, and 20 lbs. to yield the oleaginous elements for the butter, and 4½ lbs. for the supply of the phosphoric acid and other minerals. No cow could eat hay enough to supply this amount, and therefore, if we would have them fully profitable, they must be fed on other materials. It must be borne in mind also, that where butter is the manufactured article, the substances used may very much promote a supply of milk yielding a large proportion of butter.

So convinced was an English gentleman, named Horsfall, of this fact, and of the importance of keeping up his milch cows in flesh, so that he might not lose, after calving, the flesh which they had made previous to that time, that he instituted a number of experiments, and found that when his milch cows were kept up in flesh, their cream was worth nearly twice as much as that yielded by ordinary milk for the purposes of making butter.

For instance, good milk of more than ordinary quality will seldom yield over one ounce of butter to a quart of milk, and when the cream is taken, the

richest known yield is at the rate of 14 ounces of butter to a quart of cream, but more generally it seldom exceeds 9 or 10 ounces to the quart. Mr. Horsfall found that by his mode of feeding, his cream would yield from a quart from 22 to 25 ounces of butter, and from the milk he got at the rate of 25 ounces of butter to every 40 pounds.

To obtain such results, however, Mr. Horsfall found that he must feed his cows on food that besides sustaining the animal, would also contain a surplus of the elements of curd, of butter, and of bone, sufficient for the formation of the quantity of milk which the cow was in the habit of giving, or in other words the rations of food must contain casein, olein and phosphates, not only sufficient to supply the natural waste of the animal, by keeping up its muscles, its bones and its respiration, but also to enable it to give milk to the utmost powers of its secreting organs, fully saturated with the particles of butter.

He found that a cow could not possibly consume, were she to keep her jaws moving for the whole twenty four hours, a quantity of either hay or turnips sufficient to produce milk or butter in such amount as would render the keeping of cows profitable, and that he must rely upon other articles of food, in the composition of which there were the requisite elements.

After various trials of different substances and mixtures, it was found that one of the most economical compounds, with regard to results, and value of the materials, was formed from rape cake, 5 pounds, bran 2 pounds, for each cow, mixed with a sufficient quantity of cut bean straw, and oat chaff, to supply each animal with three meals of as much as it would eat. This mixture was steamed, and with it was fed likewise, a pound of bean meal, 25 pounds of turnips or mangel wurzels and after each meal 4 pounds of hay.

The bean straw mentioned above, it may be well to note, is not the stalks of our field beans, but of the variety known as the Windsor bean. When dry, this straw is about as palatable as buckwheat straw, but when steamed "it becomes soft and pulpy, emits an agreeable odor, and imparts flavor and relish to the mess." It is not by any means equal to our corn stalks as a substance for feed, and we believe were corn stalks treated in the same way they would prove more valuable. The rape cake used is the remains of the seed of the cole wort or rape plant after it is pressed for its oil. The cole or rape plant is a vegetable of the turnip species, the seed of which is very rich in oils. The oil made from this seed is principally used for burning, and contains a large proportion of this fatty matter, as much as 10 per cent, besides nearly 40 per cent more of starch, sugar and gum, all of which yield 50 parts of fat to every 90.

Heifers fed in this way, not giving milk, and dry

cows intended for the butcher, increased fourteen pounds each per week, and sometimes even more, or at the rate of two pounds per day.

If we compare this kind of feeding with the treatment our milk cattle usually get during the winter we will easily perceive the profit of one system and the want of profit in the other.

A milch cow that receives 20 pounds of the poorest quality of hay, and 8 quarts of bran per day is considered as very well taken care of, not one half the cows in this State receive as much. Such hay is worth \$6. per ton, and the bran is now sold at \$8 per ton; it is therefore easy to calculate the cost of keeping a cow as being worth about eight cents per day, for the hay feeding is worth six cents and the bran estimated as averaging half a pound to the quart is worth nearly two cents. In return the cow yields probably from four to six quarts of milk per day. Take the largest amount, and allowing each quart of milk to yield an ounce of butter, and we have as the daily return of the cow, 6 oz. of butter, which at eighteen cents per pound is worth 6½ cts, exactly. The manure, and the skim milk, we allow as paying for the work of feeding, and the labor of manufacturing the butter. There would be a loss therefore on each cow of 1½ cent per day, which in a dairy of six cows, kept at this rate, and averaging this amount of produce, for a whole winter of 160 days, would amount to twelve dollars. We think this a moderate computation, and that the loss more generally reaches twice that amount, especially when it is considered that there is hardly a dairy in the State in which there are six cows that will average four quarts apiece per day for the whole of the winter, even on a better supply of food than that above noted.

In illustration of an extraordinary instance of feeding, and its profits, we give the following from a letter we received from Mr. Becket Chapman, of South Boston, Ionia county:

"In the winter of 1856, I fed one cow one and a half bushels of Indian meal, and one and a half bushels of bran per week, besides what hay she would eat. She made eight pounds of butter per week. Corn was worth fifty cents per bushel, and bran 50 cents per 100 lbs. Butter sold at 25 cents.

"In the winter of 1857, I fed a cow six quarts of Indian meal scalded per day, with good hay *ad libitum*, good stable, and plenty of litter. She made 10 lbs of butter per week. Corn was worth 75 cents per bushel, and butter 25 cents per pound. Will the editor please let us know if corn can be used to more advantage?"

We regret that Mr. Chapman has not given us some idea of the weight and value of hay he fed to his cows, but calling it 16 pounds per day, and worth \$8 per ton, and we have the result per week as follows:



*First Year.*

Hay, 112 pounds at \$5 per ton.....	\$0.45
Corn Meal at 50 cents per bushel for corn.....	0.90
Bran at 50 cents per 100 lbs.....	0.25

Butter made at 3 lbs at 25 cents.....	\$1.68
Leaving as a profit per week.....	2.00

*Second Year.*

Hay 20 pounds per day day at \$5 per ton.....	\$0.56
Indian Meal 42 quarts, corn at 75 cents.....	1.13

Produce 10 lbs of butter per week at 25 cents.....	\$1.60
Profit per week.....	2.50

Profit per week..... \$0.81

It will be noted that after allowing four pounds of hay per day to make up for the want of the bran, the scalding of the meal seems to give a profit of 81 cents plus the increased price of the corn and the value of the six quarts saved, making altogether a difference of 88 cents in favor of the cooked food, and valuing the feed at the same rates as those of the year before, a profit per week of \$1.18 from a single cow.

Though we do not think this the most profitable mode of feeding milk cows, yet it is a fair illustration of the fact that cows will pay better to be kept right, than to have them uncared for and only half fed up to their work.

We call the attention of the butter makers, and the keepers of milk stock to the facts set down here as worth their consideration. If any of them do better, and we have understated or underrated, any part of the subject, we are open for correction.—Let the farmers give us facts, facts that come from the weighing beam,—we shall be pleased to receive them, the earlier the better as we shall have more to say on this subject in the next number.

**The Horse Stock of Michigan,**

There has lately been published a work upon American Horses, by Wm. Henry Herbert the very popular author and editor of several works on Sporting in this country, and also of some works of fiction of much merit. We are not about to call attention to the merits of the treatise on the American horse at present, we shall consider that at some future time; but there is in it a chapter devoted to "The horse stock of Michigan," consisting of a series of letters from gentlemen in this State, giving many details relative to the history of the horse in Michigan. As these letters possess some interest for farmers, we shall publish them from time to time, and we give the first one from A. Y. Moore, Esq., of Kalamazoo, in this number.

In publishing them however, it may be well to preface them with one or two remarks, by way of explaining the very crude form in which they are published, and also to explain some important omissions, which ought to be noted.

In the year when Mr. Moore was President of the State Agricultural Society, a letter was addressed

to him by Mr. Herbert, informing him that he was about to prepare a work on the American Horse, and requesting him to collect and forward such information as he could, relative to the history and breeding of horses in Michigan, as he might think would be appropriate for a work of the kind. Mr. Moore, at first was unwilling to undertake the task, but afterwards concluded to furnish what he could collect. He accordingly wrote to a number of gentlemen throughout the State, amongst them W. S. H. Welton of Grand Rapids, John Starkweather of Ypsilanti, E. Adams of Adrian, and C. Jeffries of Dexter, who replied, and whose answers are published. He also wrote to Mr. John Hamilton of Flint, and to S. P. Brady of Detroit, for information concerning the history of horses in this section of the State, but never received reply or even acknowledgment that his request for information had been received. After waiting until the time for answering Mr. Herbert almost expired, he hastily drew off the notes which we publish below, to accompany the letters which had been furnished by the gentlemen first above named, and sent them on to Mr. Herbert, not thinking for a moment that the whole was to be published, but only that it would serve as notes which might assist Mr. Herbert, in the history, he was about to write. Mr. Herbert, however instead of using the material thus furnished as notes, made it a chapter in his work, and though it appears rather crude and unpolished, we must say that in his book, it is not out of place, for the whole work is rather a vast collection of raw material, than any well digested, and original narrative or even compilation.

The dependence which Mr. Moore placed upon the gentlemen he addressed in Detroit, caused him to make one very prominent omission in his enumeration of horses, and of those who had done something towards introducing valuable animals.

In the spring of 1853, Messrs. F. E. Eldred and F. W. Backus, visited New York in search of a horse, which for size, speed, and pedigree would prove beneficial to the State, as a horse of all work. They were recommended by W. T. Porter of the Spirit of the Times to look at a horse owned by Capt. Emman, of Staten Island. The horse was JACKSON. He was 16 hands high, and weighed when in reasonable condition about 1400 pounds. So far as appearance went he fulfilled the requirements sought for. In pedigree he was equally satisfactory, being sired by Andrew Jackson, and his dam being the Lockwood mare, noted for her trotting qualities, and herself by Mambrino the famous son of Old Messenger. This horse was immediately purchased by Messrs. Eldred and Backus for \$2000 and brought to Detroit, where he stood for two years. Jackson was awarded the first premium by the State Agricultural Society, and took a number of first prizes at the county fairs where he was



shown. Jackson afterwards became the property of Mr. Eldred alone, on whose hands he died in the spring of 1855, after leaving some remarkably fine colts. After his death, Mr. Eldred, being so well pleased with the Jackson stock, purchased Wild Dayrell, a colt from Kemble Jackson which he now owns and keeps at his farm near Farmington, and which promises to be a very valuable acquisition to the State. The introduction of Jackson was quite an event in the history of horses in this State, as it was the first attempt to bring in a first rate horse of all work, of noted blood, and not of the Morgan or Black Hawk strain, and in such a history as that attempted by Mr. Herbert, should not have been overlooked. Again Abdallah Chief, a son of Abdallah, is merely mentioned. He was purchased by Messrs. Austin Wales, E. A. Wilcox, and B. Campau, of Detroit, for the same purpose, and with the same design that Mr. Eldred had when he purchased Jackson, namely, that of giving size and action to the horse of all work in this State. He was brought into the state by Mr. Mason, now a resident of Coldwater, from Orange County, N. Y. He was undoubtedly a remarkably good horse, and came of a strain well known in New York for trotting action. He met with an accident in his stable, and was killed after he had been in Michigan a year, leaving some colts which promise well, and one of which now two years old, was shown at the late State Fair, and was highly esteemed by good judges.

After his death, Mr. Austin Wales visited New York to obtain a horse which would prove advantageous in the same respect as mentioned above, and found on Long Island a magnificent chestnut horse, of remarkable bone and muscle, combined with fleet trotting action, named Columbus. This horse was purchased at a cost of \$3000, and we think he would have proved one of the most serviceable horses that was ever brought into the State, had he lived long enough; but he died after being only about nine months in Michigan, from inflammation brought on by over doctoring and too much care. He has left a few mares in foal, and one or two colts up to this date, which may prove valuable. Columbus was own brother to Lady Woodruff, the celebrated mare that is now making such fast time on Long Island, and was also half brother to the Rose of Washington, to Rhode Island, and other horses of like trotting powers. His death was a serious loss to his owner, and an inestimable one to the State.

We have not room now to state other omissions of a like nature, but we shall be pleased to receive notes upon the history of the horse in Michigan from any quarter, and hope that those who can give information on the subject will not hold it back, but will forward it, as it may prove of much value hereafter. With these preliminary remarks we give the first instalment from Mr. Herbert's work.

SCHOOLCRAFT, April 9th, 1856.

HENRY WM. HERBERT, Esq., Newark, N. J.

Dear Sir,—I have delayed writing you much longer than I had anticipated, owing to not having received some letters that I considered important. Perhaps those to whom I applied have thought it too much trouble to give the details of my inquiry, therefore I am obliged to answer your inquiries much less perfectly than I would desire, not having an extensive knowledge on the subject. Some of my own views I will set forth, and enclose the letters of a few other gentlemen for your perusal.

The original stock of horses in this State may be considered what we call the Indian pony—a very inferior race of animals. Yet occasionally one, in the hands of the French settlers of ancient date, would turn out an exceedingly fast pacer, or perhaps fast trotter, but not to equal the time now given of trotters of character. The introduction of horses from the States of New York and Vermont, has been a great improvement; those from the latter State have been of recent importation, comparatively speaking; they are of the Morgan and Black Hawk stock, now becoming quite celebrated as roadsters and fast trotters. At an early day, Gov. Porter introduced some fine blood stock from Pennsylvania, Lexington and Kippalo as stallions. The pedigree of the former I have not. The latter was got by John Richards, he by Sir Archy. I had one of the Kippalo stock, who was a horse of great bottom as a traveller, and a hardy work horse, but rather small. "Bay Roman," kept in our State for several years, a thoroughbred, got some good colts, but too small, except for the saddle; they were tough, durable horses, but did not become celebrated in consequence of lack of size. In fact, we have not yet had a thoroughbred here that has produced the desirable size for the popular uses of this State; yet no very superior horse has been produced that was not from good blood of pretty high grade.

Some of the stock of Old American Eclipse has been kept in the State, and these prove excellent horses for business, having fine action and endurance. I have had two stallions of that breed myself, one a son of the old horse, the other a great-grandson. The latter was called Bucephalus, and was the most perfect horse that I ever saw; nor did I ever hear a person say that he had ever seen a horse so perfectly beautiful. He was got by Eclipse 3d, he by Long's Eclipse, and he by American Eclipse. The dam of Bucephalus was got by Florizel. Bucephalus was a horse of great bottom, and could run his mile in 1.56, and keep it up for four miles. He was taken to California by my son, and there died at the age of 11 years. I have five filly foals, all from high blood mares, they are not only fast runners, but excellent trotters. No stock of horses has ever been introduced into this section of the State possessing so much bottom, style and gaiety as these colts from Bucephalus, yet unfortunately they are too small to bring high prices from those unacquainted with their quality. "Post Boy," by Sir Henry, that matched John Bascombe some years since for \$20,000 a side, was brought to Lenawee county in this State, some four years since; he was then 21 years old. What his success has been as a stock horse I have not been able to learn; but if put to good mares his progeny must have been good. He is a very superior horse, of good size, and at Long Island was one of the best runners of his day. There are many good horses in this State called the Bacchus

stock, got by Old Bacchus of Ohio, owned by Cone, who was shot at a race-rack, a noted horse-racer of that State. They are the fastest horses for short races that have ever been in our State, not large generally, but very strong and muscular. I have the largest one, a stallion, that I ever saw, full 16 hands high, weighing 1,300, ran fast for his size, a four minutes trotter, and the best farm-horse I ever owned. My neighbor, Mr. Armstrong, owns the horse well known in this State as John Bacchus, as good a half-mile horse as I ever saw; his dam was "Printer." "Telegraph," owned by John Hamilton, of Flint, Mich., is a full brother to John Bacchus, and said to be equally fast. It is said they can run 80 rods in 27 seconds. I cannot vouch for that, but believe it to be, at least, very nearly correct. The Bacchus horses generally are road-horses, draught-horses and running-horses combined, and I believe, if trained, will make fast trotters. Some Morgan horses, from Vermont, were introduced into Kalamazoo county some ten years since, fine in style and action, but too much of the pony order to have been a real benefit to the country. The colts were small, except where crossed to very-large mares. Since that time a good many have been brought into the State of larger size, mostly from the Blackhawk part of the family, and very fine trotters, some quite superior, of which I will speak again. H. R. Andrews, Esq., of Detroit, and Dr. Jeffries, of Dexter, Washtenaw have got some very fine stock and thoroughbreds. "Bob Letcher," of Lexington, Ky., was a very favorite horse of theirs, and died last summer; he doubtless will leave some good stock. For the balance of the stock and performance, I refer you to Dr. Jeffries' letter herewith enclosed. I will say, however, that I have seen the stock of Mr. Andrews and Dr. Jeffries, and consider it of the most superior class of thorough-breds—especially Madeline: being very fine, and above 16 hands high, and every way well proportioned. I believe her, in reality, the best blood mare I ever saw. Within the last two years, a number of very superior trotting horses of the Blackhawk stock have been brought into the State, and Coldwater, Branch Co., appears to have the best. Mr. A. C. Fisk, of that place, has been the importer of three, which I will name. The first horse is now owned by Messrs. F. V. Smith and J. B. Crippen, of Coldwater, called Green Mountain Black Hawk; he was got by Sherman Black Hawk, exhibited at the National Fair at Boston, and was next to Ethan Allen in speed, 2.35. Green Mountain Black Hawk is now coming six years old, nearly 16 hands high, and weighs in good condition very nearly 1200, and can trot in less than three minutes considerably. His colts are very fine and uniform in their appearance; he bids fair to be No. 1 of this State, if not of the nation. The next importation of Mr. Fisk was Vermont Hero, half-brother to the above mentioned horse, the sire being the same; a larger horse, and perhaps as fast but this is not known, they never having been tried together—every way well formed, but does not show quite so much style forward. The third importation of Mr. Fisk appears to be his favorite. He is called Black Prince, got by Old Black Hawk, and a fast trotter; a little smaller, but very handsome. Dr. Hayes notes a black horse of his that is a good horse; took second premium at our State Fair, and bids fair to be a valuable stock horse. William Johnston, of Marshall, also has a good trotting horse, called "Black Tiger," of some Morgan blood.

I perhaps, have said more in this confused manner, than can be well understood. I will now speak of

the horsemen of this State, and their success. Eben Adams, of Adrian, perhaps, stands first as a horse dealer, to make it pay. He matches horses, trains trotters, and sells at high prices, as his letter will show, herewith enclosed. H. R. Andrews, of Detroit, has good blood stock, and is a good judge of horses generally. Dr. Jeffries also is a good judge. Dr. Hayes, of Marshall is one of the best trainers of trotting horses, to get them ready for market. F. V. Smith, of Coldwater, has a peculiar faculty to see an animal, and for his practice is a first-rate horseman. My friend J. Starkweather, of Ypsilanti, is a good horseman, trains horses and sells at high prices. There are many more in this State, too many, indeed to mention, of the same capacity. There are but few farmers that have made it much of a business to raise horses, and as a general thing we have bought more than we have sold; but the time has now come when great attention will be given to raising fine trotting horses. Michigan feels capable of producing as good horses as Vermont, by breeding from Black Hawks and Morgans. The thoroughbred turf-horse is esteemed very highly by some, and I am one amongst the number; but I think to cross them with the Black Hawk stock will produce the best trotters. I have been a breeder of blood horses myself, perhaps more extensively than any one in the State, having numbered as high as 48 at one time; am now reduced to 12, and intend to make the blood cattle something of a business hereafter, as well as fine horses.

I will give you a list of stallions now owned and kept in the State, which I consider very superior horses.

"Green Mountain Black Hawk" will be six years old in July, is a beautiful golden chestnut, 16 hands high, and weighs over 1,100lbs.; was bred in Addison Co., Vermont, and got by Sherman Black Hawk, who trotted at the National Show in Boston last fall in 2.35—he by Hill's Black Hawk, who was by Sherman Morgan; he by the original, or Justin Morgan, by True Britton; by Moreton's Traveller, imported; he by the celebrated O'Kelly, or English Eclipse, &c.; Justin Morgan's dam was by Diamond; he by the Church Horse; he by imported Wild Air. The dam of Black Hawk was a large black mare from Lofty by Wild Air; grand dam Doll by Wild Air; she was a fast trotter. The dam of Sherman Morgan was imported, and a fast trotter. Sherman Black Hawk's dam was from Messenger, Leonidas, and Bellfounder. The dam of Green Mountain Black Hawk was got by Gifford Morgan; he by Burbank who was the original or Justin Morgan; grand dam, a Morgan mare, supposed to be by Sherman Morgan.

It will be seen by the above pedigree, that Green Mountain Black Hawk possesses the original Morgan Blood, in such purity as is seldom found at the present day, and descended through two of his best sons, "Sherman" and "Burbank."

He combines size, style, beauty, speed and action, in perfection very rarely found in one horse. Among his ancestors are numbered the best trotting stallions ever known. He can trot a mile under three minutes.

"Vermont Hero."—Black; sired by the same horse; dam, a Hamiltonian mare; fast trotter and of large size; owned by A. C. Fisk, Coldwater.

"Black Prince."—Black, got by Old Black Hawk; fast trotter; of medium size; owned by A. C. Fisk, Coldwater.

"Green Mountain Boy."—Livingston Co. See Dr. Jeffries' letter.

A five-year-old colt of the "North Horse," at Lansing, a very superior horse in beauty, style and action. Name of owner and horse not known.

Mr. Starkweather, in his letter, speaks of two good horses of that breed in Washtenaw Co. I have heard, from a different source that they are very good.

"Billy Boston."—Owned by H. R. Andrews, Detroit, and Dr. Jeffries, Dexter. See Dr. J.'s letter.

"John Bacchus."—Bay; 15½ hands high; very muscular; fast runner. Sire, Cone's Old Bacchus. Dam, Old Nell, by Printer.

"Telegraph."—Full brother to John Bacchus, and larger; fine and fast; owned by John Hamilton, Flint, Mich.

"Black Eagle."—Black; owned by Dr. Hayes, of Marshall. See his letter, good trotter and a fine horse.

"Black Tiger."—Black; good size; pretty fast trotter, some Morgan blood; owned by Wm. Johnston, Marshall.

There are three Morgan horses at Kalamazoo, brought from Vermont, good travellers; medium size; owned by a company and individuals.

"Old Post Boy."—Thoroughbred; chestnut; by Sir Henry, he by Sir Archy, his dam by Diomed, grand dam by Bel-Air. Postboy's dam, Garland by Duroc; grand dam, Young Damsel; g. g. d. Miller's Damsel, the dam of Eclipse.

"Abdallah Chief."—Sired by Old Abdallah; chestnut; fast trotter; large, being 16½ hands high; weighs 1,200 lbs.; a good horse; owned by a company. In charge of J. Parish, at the race course, Detroit.

At Detroit there is an established race-course, which has been kept under the direction, principally, of Mr. J. Parish; some excellent running and trotting has been performed there.

At Adrian there is a race-track, more for the purpose of training than for general racing.

At Coldwater, the horsemen have a private race-track to train upon; no public racing allowed, but occasionally a match race or trot.

At Kalamazoo there is a race-course of two-thirds of a mile, with petty races occasionally; kept mostly for training.

At Marshall there was one, but it has not been kept up for the last year: also one at Jackson which has shared the same fate.

Yours, &c., &c.,

A. Y. MOORE.

### A Chapter on Sorghum Seed.

EDITOR MICHIGAN FARMER:—In connection with the discussion of the different qualities of Sugar Cane raised the current season, the question is beginning to be asked where are we to obtain good and reliable seed for the next planting? This enquiry I expect to have frequently made, not the coming season only, but for successive seasons.

In the first place, the trial of the cane has been so entirely satisfactory—so far at least as syrup is concerned—whether the seed ripened or not, that a general retrial and much more extensive planting will be made in 1858. But the difficulty will be in procuring good and pure seed to plant, whether at the north or south. There is no doubt of seed enough raised in the southern States to plant any required district, but whether that seed is reliable

and pure, *what is* reliable and pure, is another thing. You will allow me to state my reasons.

There have been disseminated throughout the country two kinds of Sorghum, the sweet or true, and the tasteless or false, each resembling each so nearly in growth, foliage, seed, seed-head and general appearance, as generally to deceive the most astute observer, until the cane is actually tasted. The true is the Chinese Sugar Cane or *Sorghum Saccharatum*, and the false is the *Sorghum Vulgare*, commonly called Chocolate Corn, and in some sections Guinea Corn. The Chocolate Corn is a trifle earlier, and grows high, erect canes, which are erect, because they are light. The sweet Sorghum canes are heavy because they are loaded with sweet, and frequently, for that reason and their high and slender growth, are prostrated by the winds. One seed of the false is sufficient while in bloom to adulterate a whole acre of the true:—

In this way: all the Sorghums blossom first on the uppermost part of the panicle, and then by degrees follow the panicle to its base, where it ceases. It being a long time in bloom, the pollen of the false, by the winds and insects, has the first and best opportunity to impregnate the true as soon as it comes into bloom. It can readily be seen, then, how easily a whole field of seed may be adulterated by a few seeds of the false, intermixed, without the cultivator having any knowledge of the fact, until a subsequent crop. I have specimens of the false in my possession which cannot be distinguished by the appearance from the true seed.

Again this Chocolate Corn has been in the country for years—grown partly for curiosity and partly for a beverage, and probably much of the genuine has occasionally been adulterated by reason of the great inclination of this description of plants to hybridise. Again the unprecedented demand for seed last spring and its scarcity, led the Government to purchase what came in its way for distribution.—Thus the Patent Office distributions were in some cases adulterated. Add to this the French history of the Sorghums, showing the prevalence of the common Sorghums in that country, derived, as in this country probably from Egypt and the west coast of Africa, where it is known under the general name of *Mabaalee* or *Kaffir Corn*, and we can very correctly conclude what must probably be the result of the miscellaneous importations from France last spring, and so generally and unscrupulously disseminated over the country.

I think I have satisfactorily accounted for the complaints in various parts of the south as well as the north, of the canes occasionally lacking sweetness. How far this has been observed, I cannot say. My own experience the past season has proved it to some extent.

I purchased last winter seed from various quar-



ers and procured what I could of the Patent Office. Among the rest I bought a pound of H. D. Emery & Co., of Chicago, for \$6 which proved entirely worthless, as it would not germinate.

Becoming convinced that I probably was collecting much foul seed at considerable cost, I wrote to my brother residing in Europe, to procure me some genuine reliable seed for my own use. The result was the purchase of probably as pure an article, if not the purest brought into this country—having been propagated by the French Government under the supervision of M. Vilmorin, and by him certified to be pure; a surplus of which I have remaining for sale to those who may require genuine and pure seed. I then laid aside my other seed and planted three acres of my own importation, which was very plump and beautiful. The growth of this season proves it to be genuine sweet Sorghum without any adulteration, tho' unluckily it did not mature its seed, as was generally the case in this quarter.

While working up my cane at the mill this fall, I occasionally worked up some small patches for my neighbors who had procured their seed hap-hazard, and had occasion to notice the frequent difference in the yield from different piles of cane brought to the mill, showing conclusively the effects of adulteration. One man in an adjoining town bought a package of seed that produced Chocolate Corn with out a particle of sweetness in it.

Other observers will have noticed sufficient to put them on their guard against a deception the most difficult of detection, as well as the most important to be understood.

Respectfully,

JNO. T. BLOIS.

Jonesville, Mich., Nov. 18, 1857.

### Farms in St. Joseph County.

At the late fair in St. Joseph county, we enjoyed the privilege of accompanying the committee to which was given the duty of judging upon the merits of the farms offered for competition, and thus had an opportunity of noting some of the peculiarities of the agriculture of this rich and fertile county. Besides this, we have since visited some other portions of the county, and shall take occasion in our next number to criticise and call attention to certain facts which this report discloses. Meanwhile we publish in this number the

#### Report of the Committee on Farms.

The Committee on Farms respectfully report: That two farms were entered as competing for the premiums offered. One was that of William Major, in the town of Lockport, the other was the farm of Michael Klein of Nottawa.

The farm of Wm. Major was visited first, and it was found that the whole tract comprised in it was 240 acres, of which 160 were improved and under cultivation, including about fifteen acres of meadow or marsh lands which was used for mowing. On this farm we found a neat and well-planned brick dwell-

ing house, with a large roomy cellar underneath, used as a milk room and also for the storage of roots. The access to this was convenient and under cover.

The outbuildings were large and convenient, but wanted arrangement, and the yard room, intended to be used for stock was not well fenced. The corner-ribs were good, well planned buildings, and one of them has a division in its centre which was constructed so that it served as a ventilator.

The garden was not extensive, nor had it received much attention. There were small fruits, such as currants and raspberries, but there was not an extensive supply of the vegetables usually found useful for a winter store.

The orchard contained many varieties of good apples, but its chief defect was that it did not contain trees enough of any two or three good winter varieties to make the sale and production of fruit profitable beyond the mere supply of the household. Amongst the most prominent varieties of apples grown was the Fallwater Pippin, a good-keeping winter apple, and a steady bearer, as we are informed. Some young trees had been set out, but grain crops had been sown amongst them,—a practice which we deem injurious to the growth of fruit trees, and the production of fruit. The whole lot used for orchard purposes, is about eight acres, about one-half of which is occupied by young trees, not yet in bearing. From the other portion there is produced only a surplus of about 100 bushels of apples to be sold.

The farm is conveniently divided for easy access to all the fields, and the fences are in good condition. The road passes through the farm and divides it into two portions.

The wheat crop of last year was taken from 45 acres, and yielded as nearly as can be estimated, about 800 bushels. Much of this was taken from ground which the year before had been occupied with corn, and the present year the principal portion of the wheat crop, for next year, has been sown amongst the standing corn, about 20 acres of a clover sod being used for the remainder of the fall sowing.

There was under cultivation 30 acres of corn, of the large dent or horse-tooth variety. This was of thrifty growth, and produced a pretty even crop. The average number of stalks in the hills were three, and the hills were four feet and a half apart. This width was considered most conducive to the growth of the large varieties of corn, and also necessary to permit the sowing of wheat amongst it. Some of the corn had been topped.

The crop of hay was taken from 20 acres, of which 15 was a fine tract of marsh, as yet unimproved by draining or ditching. The yield of hay cured and saved the present season was estimated to be about 25 to 30 tons. The fields seeded down with clover had been much winter-killed, and the pastures were eaten very bare.

Stock—The working animals on the farm were three horses and two colts partially worked, and a yoke of oxen.

The neat stock consisted of ten head of young cattle, of which there are usually sold from three to five head bringing about \$25 or \$30 each.

The milch cows kept are three, from the produce of which after supplying the household, 200 pounds of butter have been sold the present year.

The number of sheep kept is 100, part of which are Spanish Merinos, and part natives. The wool from them averaged 3½ lbs. per fleece. There are annually sold 20 head of fat sheep at \$2.50 each.



that place, and promised to have something more to say on the same subject in future numbers. A time honored subscriber to the *Farmer* has taken the alarm lest the growth of the "weed" should prove dangerous to our public morals, and has sent us the following communication to which we give place, though we do not entirely agree with him in some of his sweeping assertions. Providence did not give us the tobacco plant without knowing that it was "good," in its place, and that it had a certain part to perform in the economy of nature. Because men pervert it into a source of dissipation, is no reason why it should not be cultivated, as long as there is a commercial demand for it. The same sort of argument would put a stop to the growth of barley as a crop, because it is almost entirely used in this country for brewing purposes. In other countries however it is used as food. Corn might be objected to also, so much of it being made into alcohol. The editor of the *Farmer* has not to deal with the manufacture of any article, nor with the disposition of crops by manufactures, it is with the economical treatment of land, and the growth of crops that will prove of profit to the agriculturist that he has to treat, and to this he must confine himself if he would prove useful. The moment he steps out of his sphere to discuss politics or morals, he is diverting his journal from the position in which his subscribers desire it should be maintained, and is occupied with matters which can be more fully argued in journals specially sustained for that purpose. Hence while we describe the cultivation of a crop, and how it should be treated, we are not to be held as in favor of either using tobacco, or drinking alcohol—both practices, which we are of the opinion the civilized and uncivilized world would be better off without, but which nevertheless are practiced to such a degree, that a high and important commercial value is imparted to all the raw materials from which the manufactured articles are made, and thus a demand is made of which the agriculturalist, the merchant, the mechanic, the laborer, are all ready to reap advantage, leaving those who misuse the gifts of God and their own families, to settle their own accounts with their Maker.—Ed.]

FRIEND JOHNSTONE.—I was not a little surprised to see the cultivation of tobacco recommended to the farmers of Michigan on page 302 of your October number. I was a resident of this Grand River Valley years before the *Michigan Farmer* had a being, have been its constant reader and supporter from its first publication to the present time, and have looked upon it as the patron of honest labor, virtue and morality. Now the object of all honest labor is the production of something useful. Tobacco neither feeds the hungry, nor clothes the naked; but it takes the bread from the children, and casts it to dogs in

more ways than one. First, directly, by robbing the poor of the means of feeding and clothing their children: it also deprives them of the means of educating their children, which is taking from them their intellectual bread. The tobacco bill of many poor families is much greater than their school bill. Secondly, the time and labor consumed in the cultivation of the useless article, and its manufacture into its different forms for use, is worse than wasted; for the product of such labor not only does men no good, but is a positive injury: consequently such labor cannot come under the head of *honest* labor. Any business which looks only at the profits in dollars and cents arising from it, without regard to its effect upon the health and morals of the community, can hardly be called an honest business: and the cultivation of tobacco must certainly come under this head; for every observing man knows that no good results to mankind from its use: and if the plant were to be utterly exterminated from the earth, it would be one of the greatest blessings to the whole human family.

By common consent the habit of using tobacco is one of the bad habits which children should be instructed *never* to form. It is the first in a train of evils ultimating in crimes of the darkest dye. Drinking, gambling, fighting, robbing, stealing and murder, are the associations connected with smoking in our public saloons, to sustain which tobacco is a very necessary ingredient. These saloons are so many hotbeds of vice, from which men go out with passions inflamed, transformed into demons incarnate, ready to perpetrate all manner of violence and mischief upon the persons and property of men; and tobacco is one of the baits used to allure unthinking youth into the fatal snare. It is true that the use of tobacco is becoming more and more general every year throughout the length and breadth of the land. It is also true that vice and crime are fast multiplying upon us. Witness the horrible murders, the brutal assaults, the robberies, the thefts, the rapes the details of which occupy so large a proportion of our public prints. This is the natural result of stimulating men's baser passions with tobacco and alcohol. All such vile productions for common use are a nuisance, and come not within the bounds of honest labor. The best moral training can never counteract the evil so long as our children are allowed to come under its influence; and will the farmers of Michigan propagate the evil by taking the children's bread and casting it to dogs? I mean by devoting their rich swales and reclaimed marshes to the cultivation of tobacco. The swamps and marshes of Michigan are her great reservoirs of manure, out of which the Author of nature designed the tillers of her soil should elaborate her children's bread. Let these be properly improved and drained, and, without any "top-dressing of sand," they will furnish an



abundance of grass, while from many localities any amount of decomposed animal and vegetable substances properly blended with alkaline earths, may be taken to enrich our dry, sandy lands, which without some such means will soon become barren by continual cropping. The grass from these reclaimed lowlands will furnish the means of keeping cattle, sheep and horses on the uplands during winter, and the manure thence obtained will serve still further to enrich them. This will feed the hungry and clothe the naked. But to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs, is to convert these fertile spots into tobacco fields, the whole product of which will be carried off year after year to furnish saloon baits to allure our sons from the paths of virtue, while our uplands are left to smile in their barrenness. This would be the most consummate folly, and short-sighted policy imaginable, to say nothing of the sin of thus perverting Heaven's blessings, and the designs of the Author of Nature.

Tell Mr. Smith, therefore, to write to those men in Connecticut who have introduced the cultivation of tobacco upon his farm, that they may regard the hailstorm which destroyed their crop, as an indication of the wrath of Heaven upon their impious attempt to pollute the virgin soil of Michigan. We want no such missionary operations here: and if we are to have a series of articles on the cultivation of tobacco in future numbers of the *Farmer*, as promised, will you please place this for an introduction; and if need be, I will endeavor to follow it with such instructions on the subject as, if well improved, will make men moral, good and wise.

Yours respectfully,

J. C. ROGERS.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Nov. 12th, 1857.

### Our Note Book—Jackson County.

*Brooklyn township.*—In passing from Manchester into the southern part of Jackson county, the traveler seems to do nothing but climb, the land all rising to what may be thought a considerable elevation for Michigan. When arrived very nearly as high as it was possible to go, we came to the handsome residence of L. D. Watkins who has a farm of nearly one thousand acres here. He had just secured his crop of wheat when we were there, and which had been but little affected with either weevil or rust.

*A crop of Apples.*—The soil was evidently a most excellent one for apples. The fruit in the several orchards of Mr. Watkins (and he had three extensive ones) was superior in size and quality. This year did not happen to be the bearing year of his orchards, but there was much good fruit in them. Mr. Watkins informed us that he had the year previous sent fifteen hundred bushels of fall and winter apples to Chicago, for which he had obtained a ready sale at 60 cents for the fall fruit, and \$1.00 per bushel for the winter varieties.

*Cider Making.*—Mr. Watkins has used Hickock's Cider Mill for two or three seasons. Whenever apples are ripe enough he wheels it into one of the orchards, and makes his sweet cider as it is wanted for use, grinding up half a barrel in the course of half an hour as an amusement after supper. He has tried several times how many apples were required to make a barrel of cider with this mill, and found as a general rule that when the apples were pressed three times, seven and a half measured bushels would invariably make that quantity.

*Sheep and their produce.*—On this farm there were kept five hundred Spanish Merino Sheep. There had been selected with such care that their average yield of wool the present season was five pounds per head. The soil and surface of these hills are admirably adapted for the growth of sheep and cattle. We should hesitate however to put Shorthorns on them. A more hardy and active race is wanted, and we should incline to try the Herfords here, or crosses with the Devons and Shorthorns for market purposes.

*A marsh.*—Situated behind the house and barns, is a most noble extent of marsh land, of nearly two hundred acres in extent, surrounded with uplands, and sloping from their base, into a small lake, which seems as if it were set like a diamond in the midst of hills of emerald, giving a complete finish to the landscape. This lake is well stocked with fish, as we happened to have a good opportunity of finding out with the aid of a rod and line one morning. In the midst of this marsh, there are springs of the purest water, which well up deliciously clear and pure. The water itself tastes like a cordial, of which one cannot drink enough. In certain parts of this marsh the calcareous marl comes up close to the surface, as white as chalk, and apparently pure enough to yield lime of considerable strength when burnt. Some abortive attempts had been made to drain a portion of this marsh, but from want of experience in this science, the ditches cut had been of little or no service and some of them had been almost completely filled up by the growth of the vegetation. Mr. Watkins, however, had come to the conclusion to carry out a series of improvements, which would render all this marsh highly productive in the course of a few years. His marsh was entirely different in quality from that of Mr. Smith, described in the September number of the *Farmer*, and therefore did not require the same kind of treatment to subdue it.

*Shorthorn Stock.*—A short distance from Mr. Watkins, we found some fair Shorthorns on the farm of Mr. Bromfield, and which he was taking some pains to raise and breed. His bull Fremont was a young thrifty animal, but not by any means first rate in quality. The heifers of this stock were light, small framed, and we think lacked in constitution and capacity to flesh up quick.

*Sheep.*—Near Mr. Bromfield's we visited the farm of Mr. Spofford, a farmer of much skill. He had most excellent Spanish Merino bucks, which he had bred with care. They were examples of careful selection of both sire and dam, and we were much pleased to find such results arising where proper attention had been given to the subject of breeding, with some idea of improving in size, form, and weight and quality of fleece. Mr. Spofford had been crossing his cattle with the Devons.

*An orchard set too close.*—Here we found an orchard which had been set out about sixteen or eighteen years before our visit. The trees had been planted in square rows twenty four feet apart; and the consequence was that now the branches of each were interlaced in the other, and the foliage formed a thick, dense mass which completely shaded the ground. The trees could not yield a full crop with so much wood, and consequently the fruit was not large. The soil had all it could do to sustain the trees in a healthy condition, and seemed very much in the condition of the old lady "who lived in the shoe, and had so many children she did not know what to do." Mr. Spofford, however, had determined to thin out the branches next season, and when he begins to amputate, he must do it in such a manner that he will feel certain it ought not to be done over. With this, and the thorough plowing in of a compost of half manure and half swamp muck, with a top dressing of salt, leaving the ground to be worked with the cultivator or gang plow several times during the summer, he will find no difficulty in raising fruit of the best quality.

*Mr. S. W. Palmer's Stock.*—At Norvel Mr. S. W. Palmer has some fine and well bred Shorthorn stock. We have already mentioned in a late number of the *Farmer* that he had procured a very choice heifer from Silas Sly's herd. His heifer, Hilpah 7th, took the first prize at the Jackson county fair, and promises to become a good heifer to breed from. She has a good pedigree on both sides, and not far removed from imported animals of much reputation, as may be seen by reference to her pedigree at page 283. The dam of Hilpah 7th, Die Veron, is a handsome red and white cow, of good medium size, with much depth of chest, and a fine neck and head, but a rather thin hind quarter. Mr. Palmer will have a good herd, and is making preparations to have a few of the best there is to be had.

*Norvel*—This is a village which has been recently made out of the woods by the branch railroad which is to connect Jackson with Adrian. It has an extensive water power, which now drives two mills, built with all the modern improvements. It is evidently destined to be a town of considerable business, which will command a good portion of the trade of the surrounding country.

*Seeds.*—On the borders of Wolf Lake, on a small

farm, recently hewed out of a heavy timbered piece of land, we found that indefatigable seed grower, D. D. Tooker. There are some individuals who are never contented unless they are trying some novel experiment, and he is one of them. As soon as a new kind of plant or seed is heard of, he procures a sample of it, and tries it. His grounds as yet hardly afford him elbow room, but we found growing here almost every variety of vegetable which the Patent Office has sent out, and some of them very successfully. Amongst the varieties of potatoes, the Siberian or Russian was remarkable for its early maturity, its delicious flavor, the thinness of the skin, and the great quantity of starch which it contains. It will undoubtedly become a great favorite.

*Horses*—While passing through the town of Columbia, we stopped at Mr. Randall's and had an opportunity to note the qualities of his horse Frank. He is a black, of most excellent temper, and training, standing about 15½ hands in height, round barrelled, of good style in harness, and a fast and free traveller, of great power, and calculated to be a most useful and valuable stock horse. We travelled behind him, and drove him for some miles, and like him much. Mr. Hewitt, who has a farm close by, has also a half brother to this horse, which shows the same good qualities in form and action. This animal was a bay in color.

Mr. Delamater at this place owns a farm which stretches down to the lake, on which was growing one of the cleanest and best crops of Indian corn we have noted this season. Here there was pointed out the Indian trail which the red men had travelled in passing around the lake, before the highways were formed which now traverse the country.

*A good clevis.*—Whilst visiting the carding mill of Mr. Crary in the village of Jefferson, he called our attention to a clevis of simple construction, but which was a great improvement upon the old one, being easily and more speedily fastened and unfastened than any now in use. Mr. Crary was awarded a premium for this invention of his at the State fair of 1856. It is not yet in general use, only because it is not known.

*The Soil*—Much of the soil in this portion of Jackson county is light, being somewhat sandy with a mixture of clay and gravel. The surface is all rolling, the slopes of the hills permitting cultivation on every side. We have already observed that it is remarkably good for fruit. Mrs. Randall, an elderly lady, who had come from Connecticut, said that her father had observed that when he settled in western New York, pears had produced fruit when only eleven years from the seed, whilst in Connecticut the same fruits required fifteen years to come to maturity; and she had noted that in this state the same fruit had matured and yielded fruit at eight years, being earlier in maturity in Michigan than in west-

ern New York. This is a fact well worth noting, and may suggest to some of our fruit growers, that in our own soil we may possibly find varieties far superior to any we can obtain from abroad.

### Our Note Book—Calhoun County.

**H. A. Tillotson's Farm.**—While at Marshall during the past month, we paid a visit to the farm of H. A. Tillotson, Esq., a gentleman formerly well known as one of the most courteous of the officers of that most correct of all Railroads in the United States—the Michigan Central. It is quite three years since we passed by the locality of this farm, which was then in a rough state and without buildings. There is now on this farm a remarkably well planned house, which combines all the conveniences of the farm house, with the elegance and comfort of a city residence.

Mr. Tillotson is gradually working his fields into a thorough system of rotation. Like many of the farming lands throughout the State, which have been cropped, and skim plowed until they would hardly produce feed, when he went on he found much of the surface very stony, with the stumps of fifteen or twenty years standing in full possession, and scrubs asserting all the privileges of squatter sovereigns, the fences indifferent, and but little order in the arrangement of the fields. He has gradually changed this. He has planned his farm so that all his fields open into a lane four rods in width, and each field is being brought into a more cultivated state, as its turn comes in the order of rotation, allowing it to produce what it will of grass, hay or pasture, until its turn comes. Of course he commenced with the fields which were in the least profitable condition.

The stock on the farm, which consists of 220 acres, is not large for the number of acres, but he has wisely commenced with a herd of full blood Shorthorns, not however of first quality as to size or other points, but evidently serviceable animals.

He has not yet completed his barn yard and feeding arrangements, but we found in his stable for cattle two systems of arrangements, for the accommodation of his stock. On one side of a wide passage in the basement of the barn was the old fashioned sliding stanchions with a manger and feeding box. On the other was a different system. Reaching the whole length of the stalls and in front of them was a deep trough, each division of which would hold with ease four or five bushels; the division was the width of a stall, or five feet in length. But the trough was really without divisions, so that it could be broomed out from end to end, and kept perfectly clean. The cattle stood facing each other on either side of the passage which was a little over eight feet in the clear. The following diagram will give some idea of the plan of the stalls: Fig. 1. gives

side view of the stall division, made to run out five feet each from the uprights. *a* is the trough, twelve

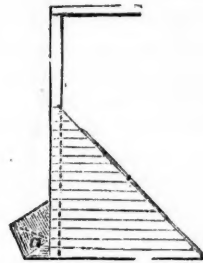


Fig. 1. Side view of Mr. Tillotson's stalls.

inches wide on the bottom, and flaring to fifteen inches at the top. The side of the trough next the stall is twelve inches deep, but the outside is eighteen inches. This shape prevents the cattle from tossing over their feed on the floor out of their reach, and the flaring shape enables them to eat all that may be put in the trough cleaner.

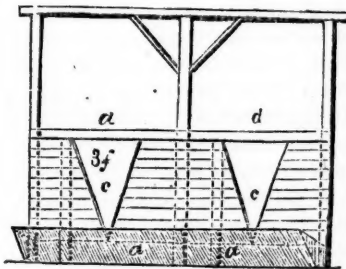


Fig. 2. Front view of stalls with feeding trough.

Fig. 2. is a front view of the stalls. *a* is the trough; *b* or the dotted line is the post on which is the ring and cattle chain, with which the animals are fastened. *c* is the triangular opening through which each animal puts its head when feeding. Each stall is five feet in width and the beam *a* is four feet from the floor. The opening is three feet wide at the top, and three feet deep.

Mr. Tillotson said he had no hesitation in stating that after a trial of both plans during the past winter he felt certain that this plan of stabling cattle, saved nearly one third of the feed; and the feeding and care of twenty cattle was less labor on this plan than of eight head on the other.

*What will he do with it?*—The arrangement of the barn-yards here is such as to permit the liquid manure and all the drainings of the stables, to be easily conducted from them in under ground pipes to cisterns outside of the yard. Mr. Tillotson proposes to have two large cisterns built for this purpose.—The design is a good one, if it may be considered economical, when taken into consideration with our system of farming. And the first questions which arise are, what will he do with the liquid manure,



after he has saved it? To what crops shall it be applied to realise the greatest profits from it? Will it pay to pump it and keep a team at work spreading it with a water cart, calculating also the cost of the pumping machines and the spreading arrangements, added to the necessary incidental repairs? All these are points for future consideration, and actual trial, but which we shall discuss at some length in our next volume—and we therefore hope he will answer our question of what he will do with it?

**Fine bred Ayrshires.**—In company with Dr. Hays, we went out of Marshall about two miles on the plank road to Bellevue, to the farm of Mr. William Kellehar, who has quite recently taken up his residence on a fine tract of land in this township. Here we found, much to our surprise, a few most excellent and well bred Ayrshire cattle which had been imported from a herd owned in Ayrshire, Scotland, by a brother of Prof. Patterson of New York. The bull was a remarkably handsome one, fine in his points, and we think a better one than that to which was awarded the first prize at the National Fair in Kentucky. Though not so long in the body, he was better in color, and finer in the head, with as good limbs, and with as great a depth of flank. The two cows were low in flesh, but gave evidence of that superiority in milking qualities, and points for which the race are celebrated. We were much pleased to meet with these animals, and have no doubt they may be the means of giving a dash of excellent blood to the milk stock around Marshall, which will speak for itself.

Mr. Kellehar has also a very fine thorough bred mare, which had been imported, and which was unquestionably a superior animal for breeding purposes, though rather light for farm work.

**Horses at Marshall.**—Dr. Hays, one of the oldest citizens of Marshall, takes great pleasure in horses, and he has got a young stallion named "Billy Downs," which though as yet untrained, shows a remarkable turn of speed. He is well got up also, for that class of horses, being low on the legs, with a sharp oblique shoulder, a round and somewhat long barrel, powerful hams, and a set of limbs with bone and muscle enough in them to send him along. He is supposed to be of Messenger stock, and was raised in the town of Homer. In his gait he is both rapid and reaching, perfectly natural trotter, and we have no hesitation in saying can be made to go in time that will be low down in the thirties. One of the excellent points of this horse is his mild temper, and his docility, a word bringing him down from his most rapid speed to a jog trot. We like this horse much. Dr. Hays had another horse of larger size, and frame, named Black Eagle, he was calculated to raise a heavier quality, being of that large boned stock, and somewhat similar in frame to the celebrated Pennsylvania draught horses.

Mr. William Johnston, the noted horseman, took us to visit his premium mare, "Abby Kelly," to which was awarded the first premium, as a blood mare at the late State Fair. In our last number we said she must have been a good animal to win a premium over Mr. Eldred's "Lady Jane," but we were satisfied, the committee was right as to the quality of the animal. This mare is like her namesake in one particular trait, *she speaks for herself*. No man who knows anything of a horse, cares to ask of what stock she is of to determine her quality. Her appearance is sufficient. Yet she is of the best blood, has size and muscular vigor in a remarkable degree, and will go her mile in 2:40. She was sired by Monmouth Eclipse, one of the best sons of American Eclipse, of the dam we cannot speak at present, but she must have been a good one. This mare is now in foal to Stone Plover, Mr. Johnston backing up his opinion on this horse by selecting him over any horse in this State with which he was acquainted, and giving him the preference even over a remarkably fine Black Hawk of great beauty, and fine size, which he himself owns. We were pleased to learn this fact, because some judges have questioned the excellence of Stone Plover, and the judgment of practical men like Mr. Johnston is not to be set lightly aside, especially when his opinion is backed up by action like the above which affirms his sincerity, and which we do not doubt will be followed by results which will satisfy the most prejudiced that is right.

Dr. Facey of the Facey House, called our attention to the noble pair of matched black carriage horses, with which he took the first premium at the State Fair. They are young, well broken, of great power and size and have time yet to fill out and become still finer and more magnificent than they now are. He also has the grey gilding which was shown at the fair by Mr. Green, and which was awarded a premium. He is a very fine four-year old, and an excellent carriage horse.

**Leicester Sheep.**—In company with our esteemed friend G. W. Dryer, Esq., we visited the farm of E. T. Bryan, in a section of country where we have not been before, and during our ride we also called upon T. A. Lacey, Esq., with whom we spent a very pleasant half hour in looking over some of his cellar arrangements for the winter, and in conversation concerning the capacity of the lands surrounding him for extraordinary production, were they tilled to their utmost capacity—a subject on which he is well informed and well fitted to give much information about. It depends on himself to do it, however.

Mr. Bryan, we found busy with a portable horse power and cider mill, grinding apples for some of his neighbors. He had recently returned from the east whither he had been with stock for market.—He has one of the finest flocks of Leicester sheep in

the State, and has increased it to such a number that he has now some lambs for sale, as may be seen by his advertisement. At present these lambs are large, square built, and remarkably thrifty, and he is taking measures to keep up his flock so that it need not deteriorate. The flock was brought from Wayne county, New York, and is of the stock of George Swail, whose father imported them from England.

The great difficulty in sustaining a flock of this kind is the unwillingness to renew the supply of bucks, by getting a different strain of blood, and also of the quality fit to improve. Such animals are not to be had at low figures, neither are they to be picked up in the corners of every rail fence. Good and well bred animals such as will improve a flock in constitution, form, weight of mutton, early maturity, and largeness of fleece, are only the result of great care and some expenditure, of both skill and money, and can only be had by those willing to pay a round price for them. First rate sheep breeders know this, and are always willing to pay well for valuable animals, and refuse poor ones even when they can have their use for nothing. Let any man who has a flock of 100 ewes calculate what would be the value to him of an animal which would increase the weight and quality of his wool, so the whole flock of one hundred netted him an increased return of 60 cents per head over what he had got when he kept only common bucks, would not this be a return of over 20 per cent on an outlay of \$300. Yet we find on every side farmers bragging and boasting that no one ever caught them paying what is called "fancy prices," for sheep of any kind. Not they! They had their money safe in the hands of some broker earning their "ten" per cent; while their foolish neighbors were paying out a hundred or a hundred and fifty dollars for sheep which were earning them 25 and 30 per cent.

Mr. Bryan also had a pair of very choice South Downs, which he had recently brought from New York, and which he intended to make a nucleus for a flock of this famous mutton breed.

We have not yet done with Calhoun county or this visit, but will resume it next month.

### The Fair of St. Joseph County.

The Agricultural Society of St. Joseph county held its exhibition at Centreville. It has a fine tract of about seventeen acres, quite close to the village, and on which are erected permanent buildings very well designed to suit the wants of the members.

The show of stock was not as large as we expected to find, nor was it of as high an order in quality as it should be. The best bull we saw on the ground was a Shorthorn belonging to Mr. George Carman, the President of the society. He was a good serviceable animal, not of the first class of that breed, but calculated to raise good stock. There were some other choice animals present the first day of the fair but they were taken off the ground before we had

an opportunity of seeing them. Only two or three cows claiming to be full bred were shown. Mr. Dougherty had some thrifty grades, and a few fair animals of this description were entered; but they were not numerous. There were no full bloods of any other breed present; some good crosses with the Devon stock were shown. But no evidence was afforded of a systematic attempt to improve the stock of the county.

The horses shown, in many cases, lacked breeding, but we noticed a larger number of good sized brood mares, than there is generally shown at many of our county fairs. Comparing the fair in its different departments, there seemed to be a better show of horses than of cattle, though neither was fully up to what might be expected of such a county as St. Joseph.

The pens for sheep and hogs were not full. Some good long wools were exhibited and a few merinos, but it was easy to be seen that the farmers in this county were not at all woolly headed. Hogs were evidently more of a crop, and some of this race, would have shown well at any exhibition.

There was a fine exhibition of fruits in the hall devoted to industrial productions. Amongst the exhibitors we found Mr. J. Eldridge, who was quite a fruit grower. After many years experience, he had come to the conclusion, that were he obliged to confine himself to twelve varieties best suited to his locality, his choice would be as follows:

*Summer*.—Yellow Harvest, Sweet Bough and Early Joe.

*Autumn*.—Maiden's Blush, Fall Pippin and Fall Russett.

*Winter*.—Gilpin (only best in June or July) Newton Pippin, Fallawater, Rhode Island Greening, Yellow Bellflower, and Rambo.

The Fallawater grows large crops here, and very large heavy fruit. We found it in some orchards grown quite extensively.

The mechanical industry of the country was well represented. We have seen no where better constructed, and finer finished wagons than those shown by Messrs. Miller & Teesdale of Constantine, and the horse powers, thrashing machines and other work from the Messrs. Cox, Hibbs & Co., of Three Rivers.

The attendance on this fair was all that the Society could desire; visitors were present in large numbers from every portion of the county, and seemed to enjoy the fair with great zest. They certainly evinced that the Society would be sustained in all legitimate efforts to improve the agriculture of the county.

Whilst at the fair we had the honor of a place on the committee which were sent out to inspect and examine the farms entered for premiums. Nothing could have suited us better. And we accordingly reported, we hope, satisfactorily to the Society.

The only drawback of this arrangement was that it prevented us from getting acquainted with many of the friends of the *Farmer*, whom we should have otherwise been able to take by the hand. We hope however during next summer to pay St. Joe a visit, all round, which will make us better acquainted with its capacities.

### The Berrien County Fair.

The Berrien County Fair was held previous to the State Fair, but our agent was unable from the press of business to give us the notes which he had made during his visit, so that we could get them into type for the November number. The fair was considered the best that has yet been held in that county, and the attendance from every town was such as to show that a warm interest is felt in the success of the annual fair. The stock shown was good, although it seemed that in the improved breeds the Devons prevailed. Amongst these, to be particularly noticed were the Devons belonging to Jeremiah Ballard & Sons, of Niles. Of these we have not the pedigrees, but were informed that Jack Downing, a bull four years old, and a two years old bull, and a heifer of like age, which had a calf on the 18th of June last, were from the stock of E. P. Beck, of Wyoming county, New York. The Messrs. Ballard had also present seven other head of Devons, amongst which was a heifer calf from the stock imported by L. G. Morris, the remainder being from the celebrated Dibble Stock, a family of the Devon breed that has not been surpassed. Jack Downing, jun., is a remarkably fine young bull, and may be considered a complete model of this stock at his age. These Devons may be considered a very great acquisition to the stock of Berrien county, and will prove a benefit to Northern Indiana, as they will furnish the means of crossing, and raising a grade of stock which will pay better than the natives, will come to maturity earlier, will fatten more rapidly, and which will have more constitution to withstand the rigors of the winter.

Mr. L. Barker exhibited a Shorthorn, which he had purchased from the Shakers of Ohio about three years ago.

The show of horses was hardly as good as we had a right to expect, but there was a good turn out, and we shall soon note improvements in this stock.

Amongst the implements shown was a cheap, simple, yet efficient cutting box, by W. H. Woodford; and also a regular old fashioned spinning wheel of the olden time.

The exhibition of fruits was much better than we expected to see. Of Peaches, the specimens of Yellow Rareripec, Sutton's Mammoth, Lawrences Favorite, Crawford's Early, Wentworth's Red Rareripec were excellent. The apples were also well grown, though rather early for many of the winter varieties to be at

their best. The show of vegetables also gave some inkling of what this county can do, and how rich her lands are.

The Floral Hall was well filled with works of art, and utility. The oil paintings of Master James Putnam, "Our baby at twelve months old," and "A winter night," attracting much attention. Altogether the fair of this year was one of the best and most spirited affairs of the season.

### Farming and the Farmer in Clinton county.

MR. EDITOR—The writer of this is a subscriber and reader of the *Michigan Farmer*, and has been since his residence in this county: and I here will state to you that I have read many single articles, any one of which would richly compensate the entire expense of its cost for a year. There are those within my knowledge who, instead of the *Michigan Farmer*, take the *Rural New Yorker*, *Genesee Farmer*, and other agricultural papers, under the mistaken idea of "things far fetched and dear bought" being the papers best adapted to their wants and occupations. Now I do not wish to say one word of disparagement of other journals, but I will assume this responsibility, viz, that those journals are not adapted to the wants of the people of Michigan. I have seen many valuable articles in those papers for any locality, but they are generally adapted to older and better improved portions, than a good share of our own State. The *Michigan Farmer* is becoming just what we require in this state as a reliable agricultural journal. I, for one, like to hear from practical farmers, and become acquainted with the best methods of performing our work, and I like to see the communications in the farmer's own language, because they generally use such terms as the common people can understand, yet we are not to expect every one's ideas and manner to be correct in theory and practice.

I will state here that I have seen no communication, of which I remember, in the *Farmer*, from this town, and that your readers may know that there is such an organized township, I will give you a little of the statistics of our remote corner. There are other portions of the town older and better improved, where some of the most wealthy and best practical farmers of our State reside.

Our neighborhood, I will say, embraces about four sections of land of the first quality in this part of the State, perhaps about one fifth improved. There is not a single acre of lake, bog, or swamp, and none but what can be easily cultivated. It is principally heavy timbered oak openings, comparatively no underbrush except a heavy growth of hazle and blackberry bushes, which necessarily have to be cut with the scythe before anything can be done towards improving the land. The usual method of clearing is to cut the hazle and blackberry brush, girdle the



trees, clear up the down logs, &c., burn as much of the ground as convenient: and with large plow rigged for the purpose, with cutter, and with from three to five yoke of oxen, any time from the month of May to October, and sow to wheat which will yield an average of twenty bushels per acre. When the ground is plowed and fenced it is considered *improved*; the girdled trees are removed when convenient, providing they do not tumble down sooner.

Sir, can you mention a better way to accomplish this? There has been *improved* in this manner this present season about 150 acres in this neighborhood, which is now every foot of it sown to wheat.

I have traveled in nearly every improved county of the State, and I think I have seen no place so well adapted to all kinds of farm products as this. The soil is generally a rich dark gravel. I intended to mention the price of land here, the distance to market, state of the roads, number of families, &c., but must omit them for another time, but I must not omit that but very few subscribers of the *Farmer* reside in this place. There is no excuse why twenty copies are not taken instead of ten. \*

*Eseer, Clinton Co. Mich. Oct. 1857.*

[We shall be pleased to hear from our correspondent again, and would be glad to have him raise a good club for us in his vicinity. Put your own hand to the plow, and when you send the next communication, please give us your name.—ED.]

#### Sensible Hints on Raising Horses.

MR. EDITOR—You said (page 259 and 260) in the October number of the *Michigan Farmer*, "We sincerely hope," &c. This is my apology for writing so frankly. I do not know that I can solve your correspondent's problem, but my ideas on breeding horses you shall have, to dispose of as you please. You said in the same remarks, "according to the general principles of breeding, the outward form, general appearance, and organs of locomotion, are chiefly determined by the male;" and for proof to your assertion, you cite us to the mule and the hinney. Here, (you will please observe) you cite to us a violation of the laws of nature, which we cannot admit as proof in the assertion you have made. Hence we look for other proof. When we have nature par-excellence, without any violation thereof, we can find no general principles, referred to by the Editor, determined by the male. In proof of our assertion I cite you to the colts in your neighborhood. How many of Hambletonian's colts have the same general appearance, how many have the general appearance of their dams, and how many have the form, general appearance, &c., of both sire and dam blended? If Hambletonian is like most other horses, (we take Hambletonian for convenience and write on general terms) a large majority of his colts have the appear-

ance and all the other good or bad qualities of their dams. Hence, if John Cheval and others design to furnish the horse-loving community with first rate horses, they must, first have first rate mares, of large size, well proportioned, sound, speedy, of great endurance and good style. Second, they must procure the services of a first rate horse, possessing good qualities, such as size, weighing at least 1200, and not more than 1500 pounds, compact, speedy, stylish and sound. Third, the sire and dam should both possess a kind disposition, especially the dam; the horse should not be larger than the mare, especially if she is young, and no mare should have a colt till she is six years old. Fourth, mares should not be worked too hard, nor driven fast; if allowed to run in the barnyard, with good shelter, well bedded in winter, and free access to water, so much the better, and a good pasture in summer with free access to water. The want of a full supply of good water will injure both mare and colt. Farmers frequently drive their brood mares and other stock into a field where there is not any water, and in the hurry of their work, forget to water them, or perhaps some will water their stock once or twice a day. This will not do, John Cheval; if you wish to excel in raising first rate horses or other stock, water your stock at least three times each day, especially your brood mares. Fifth, mares should not be allowed to get too fat by feeding them grain, neither should they be allowed to get too lean; they should always be kept in a good thriving condition, especially a few months before foaling. Sixth, no horse should be allowed to serve more than two mares each day, and if John Cheval, or any other man, expects to excel in raising good horses, they must not allow their mares to be served by a horse that is allowed to violate this rule. The horse should have a good pedigree, of one of the popular races. This last rule is generally violated to the great deterioration of that noble animal—the horse.

J. K.

*Vergennes.*

[J. K.'s remarks are very good and proper, but he raises some questions relative to the influence of the male, without citing any example or instance which contradicts what seems to be a law of nature, and which extends in a greater or less degree with certain modifications throughout all animal life. In breeding it is well to keep this law in view. It is this very law which gives such celebrity to the Morgan and Blackhawk horses, and the energetic power of giving his own color and outward form, style and carriage, was considered a valuable point in Justin Morgan, as well as his grandson, Black Hawk. We could cite some colts of Jackson and Abdallah Chief, as well as of Washtenaw Chief which exemplify the rule as fully as the mule. The six points to be attended to in raising horses are well laid down, and are correct.—ED.]

## Horticultural Department.

### State Horticultural Society.

#### Postponement.

The Annual Meeting of the State Horticultural Society will not be held until Thursday the Seventh day of January, 1853. This postponement from the second Thursday of December is made at the request of many of the friends of the Society, who desire to be present to take part in its proceedings but who would be unable to do so were the meeting to be held on the day originally fixed.

The annual meeting will therefore be held at Kalamazoo on Thursday, January 7, 1853, when it is hoped that a full attendance of the Pomologists, Horticulturists and Nurserymen of the State will be present.

H. G. WELLS, *President.*

R. F. JOHNSTONE, *Secretary.*

### The Fruit Committee's Report.

The following remarks, upon the report of the fruit committee, are submitted, not "by authority," but to set forth the motives of a member of that committee, and to draw forth, if possible, responses from fruit growers generally, respecting the favorite fruits of the regions they may represent.

It is not claimed that the reported list embraces the best twelve varieties that can be selected for general cultivation in this State, but that they are the best that will furnish a succession during the entire season.

It is proposed that the committee prepare, and report at the annual meeting at Kalamazoo, a list of fruits of *established reputation* in the State, and, also, one of *promising varieties*.

In order to enable them to do this with satisfaction to themselves and the public, it is exceedingly desirable that growers generally should furnish them with the needful facts; and especially, that they *turn out* at the annual meeting, and bring with them an ample show of the fruits cultivated by themselves and their neighbors.

In addition to this, it is essential that correspondents state how long varieties have been in cultivation; and, so far as possible, the mode or modes of cultivation and pruning to which they have been subjected; and, especially in the case of seedlings, and rare varieties, the season of maturity, habit of the tree, &c. And as old varieties are frequently mistaken for seedlings, it is always desirable that the origin of all supposed seedlings be fully given.

The information sought above, is the more desirable from the fact that few varieties of fruit are adapted to all the variations of soil, climate, and exposure, included in our broad range of country. Many varieties, also, on first coming into bearing, make magnificent promises, which they ultimately fail entirely to fulfill. Other varieties still, are of the high-

est quality, but, from lack of size, indifferent appearance, poor bearing, or want of hardness, are valuable only to the amateur, or to persons of a peculiar taste.

In view of the above facts, the object of the State Horticultural Society in appointing a standing fruit committee, seems to have been, to obtain, through their labors, a full list of the fruits in cultivation in the State, with such indication of the peculiar qualities of each, as shall enable the planter to select with readiness, and certainty, such varieties as are adapted to the particular purpose he may have in view.

T. T. LYON.

### The Fruits of the Report.

Last month we gave the report of the fruit committee of the Horticultural Society, which contained a list of twelve apples recommended as suitable for general cultivation in any part of Michigan. For the purpose of making our readers better acquainted with these fruits we subjoin the description given of them in the new edition of Downings's "Fruits and Fruit trees."

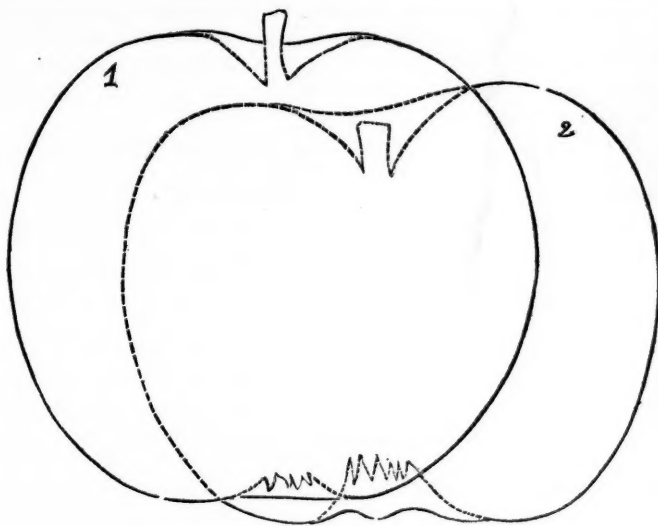
**THE YELLOW HARVEST**.—*Synonyms*: Princes Early Harvest, Early French Reinette, July Pippin, Early Harvest, Large White Juneating, Tart Bough.

An American apple; and taking into account its beauty, its excellent qualities for the dessert and for cooking, and its productiveness, we think it the finest early apple yet known. It begins to ripen about the first of July, and continues in use all that month. The smallest collection of apples should contain this and the Red Astrachan.

Form, round, above medium size, rarely a little flattened. Skin very smooth, with a few faint white dots, bright straw color when fully ripe. Stalk half to three fourths of an inch long, rather slender, in a hollow of moderate depth. Calyx set in a shallow basin. Flesh very white, tender and juicy, crisp, with a rich, sprightly, sub-acid flavor. The young trees of moderate vigor, with scarcely diverging shoots.

**RED ASTRACHAN**.—Fruit of extraordinary beauty, first imported into England with the White Astrachan, from Sweden in 1816. It bears abundantly with us, and its singular richness of color is heightened by an exquisite bloom on the surface of the fruit, like that of a plum. It is one of the handsomest dessert fruits, and its quality is good, but if not taken from the tree as soon as ripe it is liable to become mealy. Ripens from the last of July to the middle of August.

Fruit pretty large, rather above the middle size, and very smooth and fair, roundish, a little narrowed towards the eye. Skin almost entirely covered with deep crimson, with sometimes a little greenish yellow in the shade, and occasionally a little russet, near the stalk, and covered with a pale white bloom. Stalk rather short, and deeply inserted. Calyx set in a slight basin, which is sometimes a little irregu-



1. The Yellow or Early Harvest.

lar. Flesh quite white, crisp, moderately juicy with an agreeable rich acid flavor.

**THE GOLDEN PIPPIN OF MICHIGAN.**—This fruit is not described or noted in either the new or old editions of Downing's "Fruits and Fruit Trees," neither could we find it described in any other of the popular fruit books, and having written to Mr. T. T. Lyon of Plymouth for a description, he sent us the following :

R. F. JOHNSTONE, Esq.

*Dear Sir,*—In compliance with your request I send you the following description of the Golden Pippin of this region, together with an account of its origin so far as known. The outline you request cannot be obtained, as the fruit is usually out of season by the middle, or last of September. The outline of the Porter, as given by J. J. Thomas in his "American Fruit Culturist," will give a very good idea of the Golden Pippin, except that it, (the Golden Pippin,) is usually much larger, and more inclining to oblong. The following description, being made from memory, may, possibly, be erroneous in some particulars.

The Golden Pippin of Michigan was imported into this vicinity twenty five or thirty years ago, from Western New York. Trees, or scions of it, were introduced by three different persons, who obtained them from Monroe county, of that State : and two of those importations, have been traced to the town of Greece, in that county, and also to an extensive orchard, planted, or at least owned, by a Mr. Barret of that town. All attempts, however, to identify it with any fruit now grown in that region have, so far, entirely failed. This fruit is grown about Jackson under the erroneous name of "Franklin Golden Pippin." This name appears to have been conferred by

2. The Red Astrachan.

a Mr. Videto, who introduced it there from this vicinity, some years since.

The *tree* is a slender grower, making long, reddish brown shoots, while young, ultimately forming a well rounded head ; and is an early, and very abundant bearer, usually producing a crop every year. *Foliage* ; long, narrow, usually somewhat folded or cupped, serrate.

*Fruit* from medium, to large, ribbed, varying from oblong to ovate ; *Stem*, medium, inserted in a moderately deep cavity ; *Calyx*, set in a rather deep, abrupt, wrinkled basin ; *Skin*, smooth, rich deep yellow, with occasionally a faint red cheek ; *Flesh*, a little coarse, crisp, tender, juicy, sprightly subacid, If gathered and kept, it soon becomes coated with an unctuous substance. *Season*, from the last of August to the middle of September.

### Plum Culture.

BY PRUNUS GAGE.

There is no good reason why we should not have good crops of plums. The most difficult enemy to be conquered is the curculio, and there is evidence during the past season that this insect could be beaten from the field if we only chose to go at him with a determination to "carry the war to extremities, and give no quarter." It is not right that on our clay soils we should be obliged to give up this delicious fruit ; and the full crops secured by S. O. napp, of Jackson, the present year prove that plums can be grown. His trees the past autumn were fully laden with very luscious fruit. But he attended to the curculio at the proper season. His plan was the sheet and mallet, every morning. Some of his trees had been paved around for a few feet from the tree, and he observed that the curculio did



not work so freely in the branches over the pavement as they did where they were over the ground. Many try the sheet and mallet, but leave it off before the season is over. They don't stick to it. Others let their poultry attempt the work, but the poultry can only destroy a part, from the fact that the curculio is a cunning insect, and soon buries itself out of the reach of all kinds of barnyard fowls.

That a crop of plums is one of the most profitable known there is no question. The point to be come at, is how to raise them. As this is the season when work can be planned and laid out, and preparations be made to carry it out for the coming year, now is the time to lay out a plum yard.

The soil in every case should contain clay, or be a somewhat stiff loam, and in choosing a location, the yard should be by itself, so that it may be separated or fenced in whenever it is deemed necessary. A yard a hundred feet square will afford room for about 40 trees, set about fourteen or fifteen feet apart in the rows, say seven rows of six trees in each row. The ground should be well tile drained, and should be trench plowed, before the trees are set, and then the following seven varieties, a row of each kind being grown, may be selected, viz., the *Imperial Gage*, the *Jefferson*, *Bolmar Washington*, *McLaughlin Plum*, *Coe's Golden Drop*, *Reine Claude de Bavay*, *Blue Imperatrice*.

The soil in the plum yard should never be permitted to grow grass or any other crop whatever, especially after the trees begin to fruit, or before, unless absolutely necessary, then only such crops as turnips, parsnips, carrots or potatoes. No corn or grain should ever be permitted amongst fruit trees of any kind.

After the trees have matured so that fruit is set from the blossoms each year, then the ground should be plowed, pulverized and rolled as solid as possible each spring before the season for the curculio. During the curculio season, we would again roll it once a week, and turn in the poultry, especially broods of ducks, to devour all the insects which might be found troublesome to the fruit. Besides this treatment the trees should be shaken every morning to dislodge the curculios, so that they might come within the reach of poultry, and be destroyed. By this system it is claimed, first, that the plowing turns down to a great depth the insect, which has just reached the surface and is ready to commence operations with the arrival of the season; second, that the rolling consolidates the surface, and makes it more difficult to work his passage out, and presents a smooth surface, so that should any of the larva fall from the tree, they do not so readily find crannies and nooks into which they can crawl and hide from the entomological researches of the ornithological tribes; third, the jarring of the trees should be steadily followed up, because, if any insect do ascend to attack

the fruit, the only plan to save the year's fruit is to attend to their destruction at the proper time, and on a rolled surface they are as easily destroyed either by hand or by poultry, as though they were on a white sheet.

In addition to this treatment, after the curculio season is over, the yard should be topdressed with half a bushel of salt, and a couple of bushels of air-slaked lime, with a good coating of marsh muck compost late in the fall.

With this treatment a crop of plums may be raised as easily as a crop of cherries, and every tree in the course of three or four years will easily yield a profit of from five to ten dollars for every one invested. There are no difficulties in the plum culture that cannot be conquered, if we only use the means which common sense points out as necessary to follow. But it will not do to try for one season and imagine that all further work or care is to be dispensed with. The work must be performed every season, if we would have a crop every year; just bear that in mind.

#### Standards vs. Rootgrafts.

MR. JOHNSTONE:—So far as I can see the gist of the argument from your correspondent, Mr. Lyon, upon this subject, it would go to confirm the affirmative of my first proposition. That "standard grafts or buds, as a rule, are more hardy than root-grafts."

From his position, that our cultivated varieties of apple are as hardy as an equal number of random seedlings, I must dissent. My reason is this: That with rare exceptions *the finer the fruit the more tender the tree*. It is more striking in peaches, and all the subhardy fruits, but is sufficiently apparent throughout the vegetable kingdom to stamp it as a law of vital economy in its every department.

If there are orchards of inferior seedling fruit, that have sustained material injury from our last winters, I am yet to be informed of the fact; while scarce a hundred trees of our cultivated varieties but have lost from ten to twenty per cent, and often more.

It is but a reiteration of the first statement to say that the tenderness of a tree is a constitutional defect; and this tenderness is no doubt often induced by the method of its propagation, and where a kind is inherently weak, it may detract so far from its natural vitality as to prove disastrous in its results.

The principal objection to rootgrafted trees as *nursery trees*, is this: the growth of a graft in such a position is forced, and unnatural, making a great growth of unripened wood, filled with unelaborated sap, so it can scarcely escape bursting at the ground or freezing at the top before the age of transplanting; and the purchaser must run a four-fold risk before there is established the habit of moderate growth and firm wood, leaving out the question of after productiveness.

As to the objections urged against my proposed method of budding or grafting near the ground, I must say, I fail to see their force; while the facts of my experience confirm my view.

That the system, which meets most fully the organic requirements of a perfect tree, will be attended with the highest success, there can be no doubt, and I consider it essential, and of first importance that the root itself be a perfect tree—that is a seedling, and of a hardy kind (which can be obtained by procuring seed from known trees,) and that the proposed variety be inserted where it will form the most perfect union, assuring the fullest assimilation of tree and root, and but little observation will show that this end is obtained in the inverse ratio of the distance from the ground to where the junction is effected by graft and stock.

Neither do I believe that the many "unsightly trees" we see, is all owing to putting strong growers upon weak ones; but mostly to the want of the power of assimilation. To illustrate, the Swaar will almost always form a bad union with any stock, if put four or five feet from the ground; while others, as the Summer Queen, a freer grower, seldom makes other than a handsome tree on any stock, at any height. And as to putting tender kinds so low, I think they will be found as hardy in this position as any, if not more so, for the reason before stated, besides as to the height where they would be "above the reach of danger," I opine it will be found entirely hypothetical in any practical point of view.

A little of my own experience on this point—I have five trees of Esopus Spitzenburg, all more or less injured, grafted five feet high, the seedling bodies not hurt—a portion of the tops Northern Spy—this not injured. I never saw a tree of the kind injured by freezing, and it will always infuse its vigor into a weak stock if not put on too high up.

As to the Sweet Cherries, I can speak only of results in this portion of the State. There may be localities where they will attain a measure of success; but out of some hundred trees, including fifteen or twenty of the leading sorts, of my planting, many of which grew to bearing size, there are none left to "plead for further trial."

As to dwarf pears, I have raised and sold a good many, and planted many on my own grounds.—These are all dead or nearly so, and if there are any in bearing condition in this county I would be glad to learn the fact.

I know that hundreds have been brought from the east and planted, but only to the end of loss and disappointment.

As to Peaches, your correspondent seems to have arrived at the conclusion that I condemned the "popular peaches" for a lack of hardiness as compared with natives, and seedlings. This I did not

do, nor intend. It would seem invidious to make any comparisons where all have shared the same fate. With me all my bearing trees are dead, except a few very late and inferior seedlings.

As I said before, the finer the kind the more tender, whether seedlings or otherwise. But my objection to the popular kinds is, *they will not bear.*

I have had such varieties as Grosse Mignonne, Early Tillotson, George the Fourth, &c., on my ground for ten years without seeing the fruit.—Early York, Crawford's Early Red and Yellow Rarieripes and others, although of large bearing size, never produced at one bearing one fourth of a crop. While I have native peaches, of as good quality, only one or two removes by budding from the parent seedling, that will bear a good crop in favorable seasons, although as liable as most to be killed by such winters as the last two.

Facts in support of my second and third propositions in my first article, another time.

B. HATHAWAY.

*Little Prairie Ronde, Mich., Nov. 1857.*

### Horticultural Notes.

The committee of the Ohio Pomological Society held their winter meeting at Columbus, on the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th of December, to examine winter apples and pears. The circular issued requests information on the following points.

1. Has there been much loss of apple trees in your region from the effects of the winter of 1855-6? If so, name, if you can, the varieties of apples that have suffered most injury, and those which have generally escaped. Also state, if you have observed, whether those trees bore a full crop of fruit in 1855, which were most damaged by the winter.

2. Has there been any considerable change of late years in regard to the health and productiveness of certain varieties of apple trees, and the keeping qualities of the fruit? If so, state the nature of the change, and the kind of diseases or cause of failure, if known to you.

3. Do the popular varieties of winter apples of New York, such as Rhode Island Greening, Roxbury Russet, Newton Pippin, Baldwin, Esopus Spitzenburg and Red Canada, succeed well with you? If so, what is the character of the soil and location, and how many years have the trees been in bearing?

4. Which do you consider the *best six winter apples* for your section, taking into account the hardiness of trees, productiveness and certainty of crop, and the keeping quality and general excellence of the fruit for market of family use?

5. If you possess any facts in regard to varieties or peaches that have withstood the severe winters and borne good crops the past season, please to communicate the same.

6. Any information respecting pears and pear culture, particularly if founded on experience in Ohio or the West, would also be very acceptable.

7. Observations on any other fruits, or the insects and diseases affecting fruit trees, &c., will be thankfully received by the committee, and if deemed useful to the public, will be published with the transactions of the Society.

One of the best manures for grape vines is the shavings of leather which shoemakers throw away. The effect of a dressing of this manure may be perceived for many years.

THE SCHUYLER GAGE.—Mr. Dorr of Albany, a very successful plum grower, on the second week in November presented some fine specimens of the Schuyler Gage Plum to the editor of the Country Gentleman. This plum is one of the latest keeping varieties we have.

*The right name.*—There has been some discussion as to the name of the black berry generally designated the *Lawton*. After hearing both sides, and investigating its origin, the Fruit Growers Convention of Western New York, came to the decision that it should be called the New Rochelle Blackberry.

*Fruits for our parallel of latitude.*—The North Western Fruit Growers Association, which met this year at Alton Ill., gives the following as a list of apples recommended for general cultivation between the latitudes 41 deg. and 50 deg. 30 min.

*Summer*—Early Harvest, Red June, Sweet June, Early Pennock, Hocking, Keswicks Codlin.

*Fall*—Maiden's Blush, Fall Wine, Famense, Lowell, Sweet Nonsuch, Yellow Bellflower, Swaar, Wine Sap, White Winter Pearmain, Willow Twig, Talman Sweeting, Jonathan, Fulton, Ladies Sweeting, Dominie, Herefordshire Pearmain, White Pippin, Whitney's Russett, Ramsdells Sweet, Baileys Sweet, Minkler.

The last is an apple recently named by the association, and is recommended for general cultivation.

*American fruits in England.*—The Exhibition of Fruits by the London Horticultural Society has been one of the best ever known. We note that it is claimed that the English growers excelled the continental in pears. The editor of the Gardeners Chronicle observes: "In the first place the exhibition proved to demonstrate that foreign gardeners cannot contend with our own. The Pears from Nantes were indeed of wonderful quality, especially the Duchesse d'Angouleme, rich as a Brown Beurre, but they were so sunburnt as to look like swarthy Spaniards by the side of fair haired Saxons, and were eclipsed in appearance by the English exhibitors; while the fruit from the United States, interesting as it was in some respects, did not rank higher than third rate!"

In the report the following notes are made, "Messrs. Hovey of Boston, showed a collection of American pears; they had a warm brown look with them, but in point of growth were very inferior to English fruit. We understand, however, that this has been a bad season with the Americans for pears, and those exhibited were damaged very much from travelling."

"Of American apples Messrs. Hovey of Boston sent Rhode Island Greening, a green looking fruit, which, notwithstanding its unfavorable appearance, proved, when cut, crisp, juicy and excellent; similar good properties also belonged to the Baldwin, a medium sized variety, with a warm red color. These were by far the best apples in the American collection. Among others, Porter, a long shaped yellow kind; Northern Sweet, a green sort; Cogswell, and Roxbury Russet, were worthy of favorable mention.

*A note worth knowing about Peach soils.*—Rivers, the well known fruit culturist, observes in the latest edition of his catalogue, that having noticed that his peach and nectarine trees did best where planted close to a path way where the soil was well trodden down, he has found that the best preparation for peaches and nectarines, is to give a poor and exhausted soil a good dressing of rotten dung and clayey loam, equal parts, dug in two feet deep. When the trees are planted, which should be in spring, the ground all over its surface should be thoroughly rammed down with a wooden paving rammer. After this a dressing of compost about an inch or two in thickness may be added. The ground should be kept clean, but not stirred during the summer. After the ground is once rammed, it should not be cropped or stirred in any way except to keep it clean. And every spring

the ramming should be repeated, and the top dressing added. But neither spade, nor shovel should be permitted to disturb the soil.

*A NEW GRAPE AND HOW TO RAISE NEW VARIETIES.*—Professor Kirtland of Cleveland, having been sent some specimens of a new grape, which a Mr. Robert Offer of Painesville affirmed he had raised from the seed of a raisin, writes to the Ohio Farmer, "There must be some error in regard to the origin of these new varieties. They may have appeared in the exact locality of where Mr. Offer planted seeds of raisins, but they never grew from such seeds. They are no other than our native species the *Vitis Labrusca*, and not the foreign species, the *V. vinifera*, the specimens of which I herewith transmit, to show their native characters too strongly to allow of a doubt.

The lighter colored variety is among the best of our Fox grapes, which I have ever tasted. It resembles the Shaker's Northern Muscadine in several points—and will of course be condemned by our amateur vine-growers, who consider a musky flavor and thick skin, as derogatory to a grape, as a dark skin is to the human race, in the view of Judge Taney.

During the last three weeks we have amused ourselves in treating perhaps a hundred individuals, to specimens of the Northern Muscadine, Catawba, Diana, Clinton, Isabella, and Winslow's seedling. Four out of five of these persons have decided the Northern Muscadine to be the best grape in that list.

It is popular to condemn our native species, yet if we ever become a grape growing people, we have got to look to our indigenous species for varieties that will flourish in our soil and climate.

If we were about to attempt to improve on our kinds, we would select either this new variety of Mr. Offer, or the Northern Muscadine for the female plant, and would then proceed to cross with either the Catawba, Clinton, or Schuytkill Muscadine, or to hybridise with some foreign species.

*ANOTHER GRAPE.*—Samuel Miller of Calmdale, Pa., has recently originated a new seedling grape, to which he gives the name of the *Louisa Grape*. He has sent one of the plants to the editor of the Germantown Telegraph with the remark, "Plant it carefully, and if it does not prove one of the best American grapes you have, I'll treat to a bottle of three year old Clinton wine." Mr. Miller's grounds now contain over sixty varieties of native grapes, in various stages. His collection has been made without regard to expense, and he has now on the way other varieties from Texas, California, Western Missouri and the Canadas.

*THE CONCORD GRAPE.*—The New England Farmer says of this grape which the editor has seen this season where it was originated: "Within a week we have visited the grounds of Mr. Bull, where we found bunches of the Concord, entirely turned a dark purple, and measuring eight inches in length, and six across the shoulder. Up to that time we had not seen a single Isabella grape that had turned."

*A SELF OPENER.*—The best self opening gate which we have yet seen is Fenn's patent. The action of a pulley throws the gate off its centre of gravity, or causes it to fall back. There is no complication, the arrangement is simple, easily put up, not liable to get out of order, and when it does it can be readily repaired. It is the best self opener yet put before the public.

*The Hungarian Grass,* is a variety introduced into Iowa, by Governor Ujazly, which seems to be fast becoming an important crop in that State. It is now said to take the place of many other grasses both for pasture and hay.



## The Household.

*"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."*—Proverbs.

EDITED BY MRS. L. B. ADAMS.

### The Old Elm.

BY SUSAN L. MALORY.

We miss thy proud majestic form,  
King of these western woodlands fair,  
For unknown years through sun and storm  
Have thy free branches waved in air.

The blast that in its fury came  
And made the forest weaklings bow,  
But seemed to nerve thy giant frame  
With iron strength. Where art thou now?

Ah, fallen beneath the woodman's blow,  
A monarch from his kingdom torn,  
Thou liest, lowliest of the low,  
Of all thy strength and beauty shorn.

Farewell old Elm, the birds of spring  
That slept within thy sheltering arms,  
Like me in mournful notes will sing  
Lamenting 'er thy fallen charms.

*Elm Corner, Ottawa county, Mich.*

### A Home Sketch ; or the House Opposite.

BY FLORENCE FIELDING.

Richard Russel and James Newell were farmers, well to do in the world ; each being the possessor of a well cultivated farm which brought them in a handsome income. Their houses were situated opposite each other, and the two families were always upon the most friendly terms.

The tasteful appearance of Mrs. Russel's beautiful door-yard and garden had long been a source of almost envy to Mrs. Newell, whose husband thought it a sad waste of time and money to spend so much upon a small piece of ground, merely for the sake of appearance.

As year after year passed, the opening of each successive spring found Mrs. Russel and her daughter Mary at work among the beautiful flowers, or preparing beds for the early garden vegetables, occasionally assisted by Mr. Russel or the hired man ; and the result was, that while their yard was filled with the choicest shrubs and flowers, and their garden with its wealth of fine vegetables for their table, the yard of the house opposite was barren of even a rose bush.

But Mrs. Newell was a pattern housekeeper, and her house and yard were scrupulously clean, and all ways in the nicest order.

Lucy, the eldest daughter, had often made an attempt to raise a few flowers from seeds given her by Mary Russel, but her father had universally pulled them up, and told her, "if she had time to spend upon such trumpery she might go into the potato patch and pull up the weeds ; it would be much more profitable." And when, for fear of its spoiling the

paint, he destroyed a beautiful rose bush which she was training over the door, she gave up in despair. But no one in the country could boast of a finer orchard with its substantial winter apples, than farmer Newell ; as for peaches, pears, plums, and such things, "they eat up too much sugar, and tempted the hired men and boys from their work, besides, they were not very healthy!"

It was harvest time, and the two families were very busy, in doors and out, preparing for the coming campaign. Mr. Russel had provided a stout girl to assist his wife, that they might be enabled to keep Mary in school, as they had a very excellent one that summer. A description of one day will suffice to show the contrast between the two families.

Mrs. Russel sat upon her front porch covered with fragrant honeysuckle, reading a book. It was nearly dinner time, and already the table was spread with its white bread and golden butter ; a large dish of strawberries, "smothered in cream," stood temptingly displayed, while upon a side table, beside the great water pitcher, was a large wooden bowl filled with golden harvest apples, fresh from the trees. Over the cooking stove, in a forward state of preparation, were new potatoes, green peas and beans, while tender lettuce and radishes were ready to be transferred to the table when the men should come.

The merry shout of happy, childish voices was heard coming up the walk, and Mrs. Russel laid aside her book as the children came rushing in from school.

"The men are coming !" shouted Willie, "I'll get the water ready for them to wash !" "And I'll put a clean towel on the roller," chimed in Libbie, the youngest pet ; while Mary quietly assisted her mother and Sally in serving up the dinner.

Soon the men were washing at the cool well house, and brushing the hair from their damp brows, while merry jokes and pleasant repartees were exchanged among them. O, the harvest dinner ! who does not welcome it ?

"This looks delightful !" said Mr. Russel, as he entered the cool dining room, and seated himself by an open window where the breath of many flowers came stealing into the room. His wife smiled gratefully as she poured out a glass of fresh milk for her husband. Soon all were seated at the table, Mr. Russel thanked the Great Giver for blessing them with health and strength to bear the heat and burden of the day, and prayed that they might partake of His bountiful gifts with grateful and trusting hearts.

With chastened and subdued feelings they partook of the bounties before them, and returned to their labors with happy hearts and willing hands.

Now let us glance at "the house opposite." The men were seen toiling up from the fields, and Mrs. Newell, with a flushed countenance and hurried step, was bustling about in breathless haste. From early

dawn she had been hard at work, her only assistant being Lucy, who, though a good girl in the main, was rather reluctant, owing to the fact of being kept from school and thereby losing her place in her class.

Mrs. Newell's dinner was well prepared, for she was an excellent cook, but it had cost her a world of labor; last year's potatoes, pork, and dried apples constituted the main dishes. Mr. Newell, in a hurried manner, went through the form of asking a blessing, and swallowed his dinner without speaking to any one; and thus in silence the meal was passed, without any interchange of social feeling. This was a sample of the whole season.

In the latter part of August, as Mr. Newell was mounting a load of hay, his horses took fright and ran away, throwing him with such violence upon the ground as to injure one of his limbs very severely. The confinement consequent upon this disaster was a tedious one to Mr. Newell. One day after exhausting every resource in his power to while away the time, he laid himself wearily upon the bed and fell asleep. When he awoke, a delicious and altogether unusual fragrance filled the room. There was no mistaking from whence it came, for, upon a table beside the bed, stood a plate filled with large rare-ripe peaches, while in a vase near, arranged with exquisite taste, were some beautiful flowers. He well knew how they came there, for he heard the kindly tones of Mrs. Russel enquiring about him in the next room. As he lay in a half dreamy, delicious repose, enjoying the fragrance of those lovely flowers, better feelings filled his heart, and he saw himself as he had never done before. Visions of his meek and gentle wife, and uncomplaining daughter, arose before him, and as he thought of his own grasping after wealth, to the utter exclusion of every adornment and luxury for his family, his heart smote him, and bitter tears of self-reproach stole down his cheeks. O, what had not that simple offering of flowers accomplished! They were worth a score of lectures, or dozens of written volumes.

The next day Mr. Newell called Lucy to bring his crutch, and he "would walk out, as it might do him good." In an hour after, he was seen coming up the lane with a large bundle of shrubbery.

"There," said he to his astonished and delighted wife and daughter, "there are some rose bushes, and lilacs and I don't know what not. Call John to assist you in setting them out, and here are some flower seeds that Mrs. Russel sent along for next spring's planting."

Lucy bounded away to do her father's bidding, and all day he heard her happy voice from his window as she performed her pleasant task. And his wife looked so happy and cheerful, and smiled so tenderly upon him as she ministered to his wants, that it seemed like the early time of their wedded love.

"And have I withheld from them this simple en-

joyment?" his heart queried; and unconsciously his voice became more tender and loving as he addressed them.

Since that day many years have been numbered with the past, and now, as the traveller passes by, he sees no painful contrast between Mr. Russel's and "the house opposite," but his attention is divided between the beautiful appearance of both.

Reader, do you know a Mr. Newell? If you do advise him to "go and do likewise."

### Sewing Machines.

*"Twenty thousand Sewing Machines sold in the United States during the past year."*

Twenty thousand women made happy! was our involuntary exclamation on reading the above announcement in one of our exchanges. And the expression will not seem too strong to any one who understands what "family sewing" is, and who has seen the magical working of these wonderful little machines.

We can all remember, as children, those semi-annual seasons of extra toil to mothers and elder sisters—the fall, when the winter clothing for the family was to be prepared, and the spring, in which the changes for summer must be made; and still more, as mothers and house-keepers ourselves, many of us have experienced the wearing anxieties of those seasons, when no amount of courage, patience and perseverance seemed sufficient to work our way through the regiments of coats, vests, shirts, and pantaloons, to say nothing of the less pretentious but more annoying battalions of "light infantry," the aprons, dresses, pillow-slips, and pinafores, which "hemmed" us in on every side, and the sheets and table-cloths which stretched their endless seams before us. With the ceaseless efforts of weary fingers and aching eyes, the sewing would still be "behind hand;" Spring would find the winter wardrobe in complete, and summer garments like tardy blooming flowers, would be nipped in the bud by autumn frosts.

It is not always convenient for farmers' wives, even if they could always afford it, to hire a seamstress, and, in a large majority of families, all the sewing comes upon the mothers, and the oldest daughter, if there happens to be one old enough in the family. In most cases too, the same hands must do all the house work, and as that necessarily occupies a great part of the day time, the sewing must be done by candle light. Many of us can remember a patient, toiling mother sitting by her well piled-up work basket, stitching at the unfinished garments, for hours after all others in the house were in bed; and mothers all over the country are doing so yet, except the happy twenty thousand to whose relief this mechanical wonder of the age, the sewing machine has come.

After seeing one of these little implements in operation, and seeing it do in an hour the work which it would take human hands days, and perhaps weeks to do in a far inferior manner, the man who could afford it, and would yet refuse to furnish his family with one, should, if a farmer, lay aside his mowers and reapers, his cradles and horse-rakes, and be obliged to gather in his harvest with the sickle and hand rakes of old times.

Many have an idea that the Sewing Machine is a humbug in principle; than even if it can be made to work, its stitching cannot be depended on for wearing, and that it can be used only for a straight seam, or for one particular kind of sewing. This is not the case. The one we saw at work would sew anything, from the beginning to the finishing off of a shirt, except the button holes, and would make at the rate of a dozen in a day. Coats, vests and pantaloons were beautifully and strongly made, the nicest and most dainty tucks were run in fine muslin, and it makes dresses, hems pocket handkerchiefs, and patches the raggedest clothes with equal facility and neatness.

These machines are being rapidly introduced into our State, and we may have more to say about them in another number. There are several patents, but as we have had an opportunity to examine but one, we cannot now particularize, or give preference to any; we would, however, caution our friends against buying one of the cheap machines; they are said to be not worth the money they cost. One good servant is worth half a dozen poor ones.

### Buckwheat Cakes and Puddings.

The crop of Buckwheat has been very abundant this year, and as this is the season for its table use, we give below a few directions for preparing it, the results mostly of our own experience and observation. Many house-keepers have an idea that buckwheat cakes cannot be made without hop yeast, either home made or from the brewers; and very often so much of the latter is used that the cakes taste and smell far stronger of the brewery than the buckwheat. A little yeast is a good thing to start with, though not absolutely necessary even for that, and still less needed in every day's mixture. Where milk is plenty, as it should be at this season in all farmers' houses, nothing more is required than to mix the buckwheat as you would other flour for griddle cakes, only remembering that it is much better by being prepared a day before using. Have a vessel of some kind for this special purpose, a stone or earthen jar of convenient shape to handle is best, and let it be used for nothing else as long as buckwheat cakes are wanted. The vessel should be large enough to hold more than is wanted at one meal, and as soon as the baking is done, or immediately after breakfast, when you are settling up

the morning work, add a fresh supply of batter to that which is left, and set it aside in a moderately warm place for the next day's meal. It is much better by being mixed a day before it is used. If it does not rise up light enough, or is inclined to be sour, dissolve a little saleratus or soda in warm water, and stir in quickly and thoroughly just before baking. Buckwheat batter is not hurt by being soured a little, as the addition of a teaspoonful of soda will make it perfectly sweet, and far more light and tender than if it was freshly mixed. If milk is not plenty, use warm water to make the batter, but get in a little milk if possible; even half a teacupful each day will be a great benefit in making the cakes more tender, and causing them to brown nicely.—In baking, have the griddle *hot*, not warm, and well buttered, or what is still better, as it does not burn so easily, rub it over with a piece of raw fat pork, bake quick, and keep them closely covered, if not eaten as fast as taken from the griddle, and our word for it, you will have something more palatable and wholesome than the pale colored, raw liver and leather apron preparations which sometimes find their way to the table under the name of buckwheat cakes.

Another excellent way of using buckwheat flour is, to take buttermilk, if you have it, if not, warm water and yeast, and stir in flour till you make a very stiff batter, pour it into a baking tin and bake in the oven as you would a shortcake. If buttermilk is used, a little soda or saleratus will be necessary, if yeast, it must have time to rise. Bake quick and let it be eaten hot, with butter or molasses, or both. It makes a most delicious cake.

A good pudding may also be made of buckwheat flour by stirring it into boiling water as you would Indian meal to make mush, or hasty pudding, or into boiling milk, as a minute pudding is made with wheat flour. Serve it hot with butter and molasses or sugar, or any sweet sauce. Do not forget to salt the water or milk, for both pudding and cakes. Salt should be freely used in all preparations of buckwheat for the table, and the batter should never be allowed to freeze.

We find in an exchange the following receipt for cakes without yeast: "Three pints of buckwheat flour; one teaspoonful carbonate of soda, dissolved in water enough to make a batter with the flour.—When mixed, add a teaspoonful of tartaric acid, dissolved in a few teaspoonfuls of hot water. Stir it in and bake immediately.

**CORN MEAL PUDDING.**—To seven heaping table-spoonfuls of Indian meal, add one cup of molasses, a little salt and butter. Stir all well together, and just as it goes into the hot oven, put in a cupful of cold water or milk. Bake three quarters of an hour.



## Detroit Industrial School.

DEAR FARMER,—Thanks to Mrs. Sheldon and the ladies united with her in the noble enterprise of an Industrial School for these poor children who else were almost sure to grow up reprobates and outcasts, fit subjects to fill our prisons and alms-houses. How much nobler to take these little ones from the streets and by-ways, and make men and women of them, capable of sustaining themselves, and being worthy members of community, than to build alms-houses and prisons to receive them when they become so great a burthen that society can no longer tolerate them.

I hope all who read Mrs. Sheldon's call in the October Farmer in behalf of this school, will respond to it by generous offerings. Her name is a guarantee of a worthy bestowal of donations, and as it is a labor for the public good, we too are interested in it, not only as a work of humanity, but pecuniarily also. Surely if the ladies of Detroit have established the school and go into it as unsalaried teachers, we can do something toward sustaining it.

MRS. E. P. F. BRADNER.

Redford, Mich. Nov. 1857.

[ Since receiving the above note from Mrs. Bradner we made a brief visit to the Industrial School, but, as it was not in school hours, we did not see the children. We were told however, by Mrs. Sheldon, who is now the Matron of the establishment that the Society had gathered in upwards of seventy of the destitute and homeless little rag-pickers, street-sweepers and beggars of the city, and that, with but few exceptions, all were regular in their attendance at the school, which opens daily at nine o'clock, and closes at three. A good substantial dinner is provided for them each day, they are taught to read, and the girls learn to sew, while the little boys, when not occupied with their books, are employed in making lamp-lighters of fancy colored paper, which generous visitors buy of them, and the money thus earned is used for purchasing their clothing. Besides this they have the privilege of earning something each week by their good behavior.

The School has already done a great deal of good, and the foundation is laid for doing much more. The Society has already received some valuable donations from farmers, in the way of provisions, but they will need more to sustain them through the winter. Farmers who have anything to spare from their harvest stores may rest assured that good use will be made of any provisions they may see fit to donate to the industrial school.

Answer to Enigma in November number:—SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN: Answered by Frankie H. Raymond, Bay City; Lizzie H. Allen, Saginaw City; Ellen, of White Lake; Charlie Hastings, Saginaw City; Melvin Williams, Brady; H. E. Brunson and Sarah E. Brunson, of Victor.

## Miscellaneous Enigma.

I am composed of 12 letters. My 6, 7, 1, 9, is often used to feed cattle. My 4, 7, 1, 2, is a part of a ship. My 8, 3, 5, is useful in families. My 4, 10, 8, 12, are troublesome little animals. My 8, 7, 2, is a domestic animal. My 3, 5, is what farmers must get in the morning. My whole is useful in clearing land.

GLORVINA.

## Geographical Enigma.

I am composed of thirty three letters. My 1, 7, 2, 8, 13, is one of the United States. My 5, 21, 26, 15, 8, 15, 30, 27, is a River in the United States. My 14, 20, 16, 28, 8, is a Lake in North America. My 19, 4, 5, 3, 25, 6, 28, is a City in the United States. My 17, 16, 15, 23, is a city in the United States. My 9, 8, 15, 22, 32, is a county in Virginia. My 23, 21, 27, 22, 31, 24, is a county in New York. My 11, 10, 26, 25, 8, 12, 18, 29, is a county in New Jersey. My whole is interesting to Fruit growers. ALONZO PROCTOR.

Glорvina has done very well. We hope she will not be discouraged because she has had to wait so long. Some have waited even longer, and are waiting yet; but we shall come to them by and by. F. H. R., of Bay City, will see hers in print in due time.

## MICHIGAN FARMER.

ROBERT F. JOHNSTONE, EDITOR.

DETROIT, DEC., 1857.

VOLUME SIXTEEN.

## Premiums for 1858.

For the purpose of extending the circulation of the Farmer, and thus enlarging its area of usefulness, the following cash premiums are offered:

For the largest list of Subscribers sent in previous to the first of April next with the money, at full Club rates,	\$40 00.
For the second largest list, with the same provisions	25 00
For the third largest list,	do 15 00
For the fourth largest list,	do 10 00
For the fifth largest list,	do 8 00
For the sixth largest list,	do 7 00
For the seventh largest list,	do 5 00
For the eighth largest list,	do 4 00
For the ninth and tenth largest lists each	3 00

No names will be counted, that are not accompanied with the money.

The new edition of Downing's Fruits and Fruit Trees of America, is offered as a premium to all who will send in clubs of Fifteen prepaid names.

The notes of the Michigan Insurance Bank, of the Tecumseh Bank, of the State Bank of Indiana, of the Bank of the State of Indiana, of solvent Ohio Banks, solvent eastern Banks and the Canada Banks, solvent Illinois and Wisconsin banks and of the Peninsular Bank and Farmer's and Mechanic's Bank taken at par.

The Michigan Farmer and The Horticulturist or Honey's Magazine of Horticulture will be sent for one year for \$2 50.

Agents and persons getting up clubs should be particular to send in names as fast as received, and to make their lists as full as possible before the first of the new year.

## STATE OF MICHIGAN,

STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE, }  
LANSING, DEC. 4, 1857.

## CIRCULAR TO COUNTY TREASURERS.

In order to facilitate the collection of the State Tax of 1857, notice is hereby given that the notes of all the solvent banks of New England, New York, State of Ohio and Indiana, and its branches, and the Stock Secured Banks of this State, viz, Michigan Insurance, Peninsular and Farmers and Mechanics Banks, will be received at par at the State Treasury in payment for said taxes. Certificates of deposit on the Michigan Insurance Bank of Detroit, will also be received on account of all dues to the State.

S. M. HOLMES, State Treasurer.

We received the above circular as the Farmer was going to press, and give it the benefit of our circulation, considering it very important to our readers.

## Correction.

In last month's Farmer, an error was committed in the list of officers of the State Agricultural Society. The Hon. H. G. WELLS was made President in place of Charles Dickey resigned.

The place which Mr. Dickey resigned was that of member of the Executive Committee, and Mr. Wells was appointed in his place as member to serve one year. Mr. Dickey is President of the State Society for the ensuing year.

The annual meeting of the Executive Committee will be held at the office of the *Michigan Farmer* on the second Tuesday of January, next, and it is important that there should be a full attendance.

### Our Next Volume.

Now is the time when the friends of the *Farmer* can individually aid its usefulness, by getting up clubs, and sending us in from every quarter lists of subscribers. These are the kind of New Years gifts which an editor likes to see cover his table about the first of January. Our whole time and attention will be devoted to rendering the next volume of the *Michigan Farmer* the best that has ever been published. The January number will contain a beautiful illustration of the Hereford cattle with a description.

### The Way it can be Done.

While visiting a farm in the western part of the State a short time ago, after seeing his stock, his fields, his marshes and his improvements, the owner harnessed up his team, and took us round the neighborhood, getting us up a very large club of new subscribers, in a single afternoon's ride, which repaid us well for the visit to that section, and was the most sensible and practical method of benefitting our readers with which we have yet become acquainted, as it aided to pay the paper maker, the printer, and the engraver, besides giving ourselves a good opportunity to be acquainted with a large community of wealthy and thorough-going farmers, and of seeing the results of their labors, their barns their improvements; an account of all which will appear shortly.

### A Hint.

Last month we made some notes on wool, which we find have been attentively read by a few of our wool growers, for we have received a number of samples of wool from various quarters with the request that they too may be examined; we shall report upon them at an early day, having placed them in the hands of Professor Goadby of the Agricultural College, for examination. In the mean time, whilst we are serving our friends by this investigation, we suggest that they in return do us a good turn by canvassing their neighborhood, and forwarding to us from their several localities, good large clubs of new subscribers, which is the only favor we ask. This they can do by the first of January, and in these tight times it will help us wonderfully to illustrate the wool question which will appear in the January number.

### The Times and the Markets.

In the price current will be found the rates paid for most of the articles of produce brought into the Detroit Market by the farming community. We have little change to note except that the tendency of prices is downward, owing to the State of the

money market, and the close of navigation. The premature cold snap in the latter part of November had the effect of sending most of the lake vessels into winter quarters, and also of freezing up the New York canals. This of course made the demand for all kinds of breadstuffs light, and prices slightly declined. Flour has been sold as low as \$3.75. This is the lowest rate that has been touched for that article since 1853. Wheat keeps about from 80 to 90 cents for the best parcels. The exports so far from New York, show that there has been more breadstuffs sent out of the country since the first of September up to the present time, than had been for either of the two years previous. This is encouraging, especially when it is taken into consideration, that the crops of Great Britain, and of France, as well as of the rest of Europe have been extraordinarily good and bountiful, so much so that the prohibition against export has been taken off by the French Emperor. The money crisis on the other side of the Atlantic has affected all breadstuffs, but although there has been somewhat of a decline, still prices are such as to encourage export. In 1852, and 1853, the London and Liverpool rates for flour were from 21 to 23 shillings sterling per barrel for Ohio, and Michigan; now the prices are 25 to 28 shillings, yet our prices here are down to the rates of 1852. Hence we repeat again that our farmers can lose nothing by holding on for a while, at any rate, to their grain crops.

Monetary matters are assuming a more settled aspect, though all business is completely hide bound, there being no such word as "discount" known just now amongst either bankers or brokers. Our own banks cannot resume business until there is a general resumption of specie payment by all banks. Michigan stocks are quoted as worth 90 and 93 cents on the dollar, in Wall Street, so that Peninsular and Farmers and Mechanics money is worth its face, if the banks were already burst into a thousand fragments. Holders of this money would do well to bear in mind that the State Stocks of Michigan are held a little over dollar for dollar for the circulation, and that the only interest to be served by crying down this money, is that of the stockholders, who we doubt not, would be much pleased to purchase all their own notes at a good round discount. The Peninsular Bank, we have good reason to believe, is in better condition than is generally supposed, and the Farmers and Mechanics, is as well off, if not better, than it was when it shut up. We therefore say do not sacrifice a cent on this money if you can hold it.

The meat market has felt the effects of the times, and also the results of railroad conventions, as prices have gone down at the east. The same quality of cattle which brought at the rate of 11, 12, and 13 cents per lb. by the New York measurements, now are worth only 8, 9, and 10 cents. Here good first quality beef rates at only 3 to 3½ cents per pound live weight, while a good many head are purchased for less. Pork is beginning to come in freely but not in great quantities. There is such a large crop of corn to be consumed, that farmers are in no hurry to kill whilst their hogs keep growing heavier. Fresh pork is now selling at \$4.50 per 100lbs and when we know that when pork sells for 3 cents per pound, it brings 25 cents per bushel in corn; when pork sells for 4 cents per pound, it brings 32 cents per bushel in corn; when pork sells for 5 cents per pound, it brings 45 cents per bushel in corn; we can pretty nearly tell by the price of corn whether it will pay to feed it or not.

### The Monroe County Annual Fair.

From the notes furnished by Mr. Baldwin, we learn that the fair of the Monroe County Agricultural Society was a fine exhibition, and was well attended. The cattle shown, were testimony that Monroe is keeping pace with other counties in improved stock. Foremost among them, was the Devon Bull of Messrs Keeny and Wells, purchased lately from I. R. Grosvenor. But the exhibition of Mr. Alfred Patton, of Dundee, shows the true spirit of the emulative farmers. He brought out sixteen yoke of splendid cattle in one team, ranging from steers of one year old to oxen of six years. These cattle were all red, being grades of Devon and presented a very beautiful appearance.

Amongst the horses, Mr. G. H. Sherman exhibited an excellent span of blood mares with their colts of last spring. These mares are from a dam brought from Virginia some years ago, and were sired by a Bragg Trotter, a horse which was awarded the first premium of the State Society, when the fair was held at Ann Arbor. Mr. Sherman has also two young stallions of two and three years respectively, which were sired by a colt from David Hill's celebrated Black Hawk. These colts show the form and breeding of the grandsire,—the clean turned limb, the compact muscle and sinew, the round barrel and full chest, with the fineness of head, and stylish carriage that is peculiar to the Black Hawk. These colts are for sale, and no reason can be given why they should not be sought for as useful stock getters, by those who want Black Hawks, instead of going to Vermont or New York after horses in no degree superior.

In the vegetable department, the exhibition was very superior, many of the articles equaling those shown at the State Fair.

The dairy department of the exhibition was well sustained; very few of the county fairs have equalled Monroe this year in the number and excellence of specimens of butter, and if she only makes it a business Monroe county butter will soon enjoy as good a reputation, and be as well known as the famous, "Orange County Butter," of New York.

The floral and fine arts department were not neglected, nor did the home manufactures show that the spinning wheel or the loom had been altogether thrown aside; home spun and wove flannel, and full cloth were shown of superior quality.

Mr. Baldwin, says, also, "that his thanks are due to E. G. Morton, Esq., and the officers of the Society for their attention.

The Smithfield Club have determined to offer prizes for fat cattle to the amount of \$6000, and not only are separate prizes given for the Shorthorn, Devon and Hereford breeds but they are also offered for Suffolk polled, Sussex Long-horned, Scotch polled, Irish, Welsh and cross or mixed breeds.

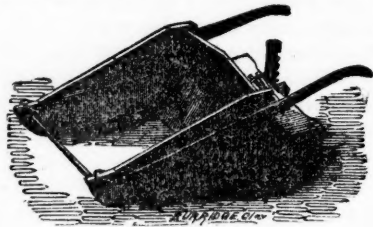
### Notes and Queries.

A friend in Minnesota, writing under date of September 20th says:—"I like the country here very much. There are no swamp lands, all being high and rolling, with a deep, black, rich, soil. Wild fruit is plenty, such as plums, crab apples and grapes. I have gathered over a bushel of the most delicious wild grapes I ever saw. They are of a bluish cast when ripe, and very sweet. I have also gathered my year's supply of hops from the wild vines in the woods along the creek. We had the first frost of the season this morning, but I believe crops are generally ready for it, though some of the corn is not glazed yet. But this is the greatest country for potatoes I ever saw. I shall raise this year, at a very low estimate, on thirty-one square rods of ground about seventy-five bushels. The ground was broke up late last fall, and the seed planted near the last of May, in hills about three feet apart each way. I should state that I planted nothing but the eyes, cut as small as possible, and but two in a hill, as seed was very scarce last spring. As a specimen of turnips that grow here, one of my neighbors presented me one the other day that measured two feet around the top or largest part, and two feet two inches around the other way, and growing yet. Can any of the Michigan farmers beat that?

Wheat, so far as tried, does well here, but you must remember that the oldest inhabitant in this neighborhood has only spent two winters here. There are probably thirty families within a circle of a mile each way from us, and twelve or fifteen of them in sight; so you see we are not altogether out of the world yet, though we are twenty miles beyond the Mississippi, and four miles from a post office."

**MACHINES AT THE STATE FAIR.**—Amongst the machines at the State Fair not noticed by us last month, was a vice shown by Hazen & Gibbs of Homer Calhoun county, which is one of the most complete inventions for upsetting and fitting tire; it is adjustable with great ease and exactness, and is likely to prove a valuable machine.

Freedom Monroe of Romeo, had his improved harness for plowing on hand, but it was not tried on a team, which was an oversight, that, we suppose should be credited to the weather. This tackling is made to avoid barking fruit trees when plowing orchards or pulling out rails from fences, when plowing close into the corners of a field.



The above cut gives a general idea of the appearance of Blakesley's Scraper, but it cannot be shown on paper how easily this implement works, nor with what facility it takes up a load, carries it to any moderate distance, and drops or scatters as may be deemed necessary. For the purpose of top dressing bottom lands with sand or gravel, when both lie in close proximity, it must prove of great value, and come into general use.


**POTATOES AND CORN.**—I am not a practical farmer, but wish to give you my experience in potatoes this year. I planted three fourths of an acre last spring, ground sod; plowed with three horses, seven inches deep in three lands, leaving three dead furrows; marked with corn marker and



as it so happened that a mark came in each dead furrow; planted three varieties of potatoes, viz., Meshanocks, round Pink Eyes, and a large red potato called by various names; three eyes to each hill, with a hand-full of plaster. Harvested about 150 bushels of very fine potatoes, but in digging, I found the Meshanocks that came in the dead furrow diseased; Pink-Eyes not much; red potatoes not any. Experience with me says, plant on the top of the ground and cultivate on a level, as not any of my potatoes were diseased but those that grew in the dead furrows.

I planted 20 acres of corn with Malone's hand corn planter; ground, very mellow and fine; corn planted deeper than I was aware of, from two to six inches deep. I wish to know how deep corn should be planted when the ground is just moist enough to make it come up quick. And whether corn planted as close in the hill (say  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch by 2), as this machine plants, is as good as to have it further apart in the hill or as it would naturally be when planted by hand. Please inform through the *Michigan Farmer*.—*A. C. Towne, Milo, Barry Co., Mich.*

[Corn likes a light covering of not over an inch and a half to two inches of mellow soil. When buried as deep as six inches, there must be a great loss of time in the germination of the seed, and besides it is uncertain that all the seed at such a depth ever comes up. It is therefore both bad economy, and bad practice to put in seed corn so deep, and a seed planter which buries corn six inches is a bad implement and should not be used. The mere spreading of three or four seeds an inch or two apart is of little consequence in a hill of corn, and we do not consider that, if all other cultivation is right, it matters whether the seeds are one or two inches distant from each other when placed in a hill.]

 An association for protection against horse thieves has been organized in St. Joseph county. P. M. Smith is the President, and Thos. F. Bouton, Secretary.

**MEASURING CORN IN THE EAR.**—Having gathered and safely housed his corn, the farmer wishes to ascertain with some degree of certainty what amount of shelled corn there may be in his pile. There are various rules for this, all of which are more or less serviceable. The following we find in the *Valley Farmer*, and it is one which can be easily tested. If it prove a sound rule, we advise our readers to cut it out, and keep it for reference: "Arrange the corn in the pen or crib, so that it will be of equal depth throughout; then ascertain the length, breadth, and depth of the pile; multiply these dimensions together, and their product by 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Then cut off one figure from the right of the last product, and the remainder will be so many bushels of shelled corn; and the figure cut off will show how many tenths of a bushel more. Example—In a crib or pen of corn in the ear, measuring ten feet long, eight feet high, and seven feet wide, there will be 252 bushels of shelled corn. Thus— $10 \times 8 \times 7 \times 4\frac{1}{2} = 252.9$ .

**BETTER THAN A GOLD PLASTER.**—We find in the *Pontiac Jacksonian*, the following letter relative to the discovery of a bed of plaster in Milford, Oakland county. It is a discovery that is worth more to the eastern division of the State than any other that could be made, and we most heartily congratulate the people of Milford upon the good fortune which has befallen them, and we hope to be amongst them to examine these beds at our earliest leisure:

MILFORD, NOV. 12th, 1857.

MR. EDITOR:—A mine of gold for Oakland county. Ira A. Hebbard, Esq., has lately discovered and opened a valuable plaster bed upon his farm. And has already taken out a large quantity, with a good prospect of an abundant supply. He has had the said plaster examined by the

State Chemist at Ann Arbor, by whom it is pronounced equal to, or better than the Grand River Plaster. Mr. Hebbard is now engaged in building a mill for grinding plaster. Said Mill will be in operation in about two months. After which the farmers of Oakland and adjoining counties, will be supplied on the most reasonable terms.

Beds of plaster have also been opened upon the following named lands: The farm of F. W. Goodenough, Orrin Goodall, John Simpson, Henry Watters, Luman Fuller, Dr. Z. M. Mowry and H. C. Andrews, Esq. The above named lands are all located within three miles of the village of Milford. Who is there in this part of the land that will dare lift his voice and say that the discovery of said plaster beds within the borders of Oakland county, that it is not equal in value to a mine of gold to the farmers?


**SUGAR EXPERIENCE.**—R. J. Wilcox of Sheffield, Bureau county Illinois, writes to the Country Gentleman, that having planted several acres of cane, he purchased a mill from Hedges & Free of Cincinnati.


Sept. 15th, we made our first trial. Cut and ground one acre by measurement. The per cent of juice expressed from the cane by the mill was a trifle over fifty by weight. A load of cane, as it averaged when cut, gave one gallon of juice to eleven canes, and one gallon of fair syrup to eleven of juice. The cane was but fairly in blossom. The yield per acre was precisely 100 gallons.

The trial consumed two days. We then went into the field and spent one week in stripping cane.

Sept. 23, renewed grinding. Found that our cane had increased very rapidly in its richness. The average yield of syrup, and improved in taste and over the former. The trial consumed four and a half days and three acres of cane.

Oct. 7th, we resumed our experiments. The seed was nearly and quite ripe. The improvement in quality of juice surprised us all. One gallon of syrup, thick and smooth like honey, to six and one half of juice, was now the result. The yield was one hundred and sixty-two gallons per acre with two acres manufactured. R. J. WILCOX, *Sheffield, Bureau Co., Ill.*

 A Mr. Lukers of Pannsylvania has obtained 717 gallons of syrup reduced to equal Stuart's best refined, from an acre of ground.

 A correspondent of the Country Gentleman writing from Baltimore, Maryland, makes the following remarks on a few apples noticed in Downing's new Fruit Book:

On searching the Index of Fruits, the name of "Golden Pippin" will be found, and the reference is to page 79; and on turning to that page, the *Golden Pippin* is described, and the synonyms of American Golden Pippin, Ribbed Pippin, New-York Greening, and Newtown Greening are given; and it is stated of this fruit that it is an American variety, "and seems not to be generally known." But on page 146 we find an apple totally different, but which Mr. Downing calls by precisely the same name of *Golden Pippin*, and which indeed is the apple so celebrated under that appellation; yet it does not appear at all in the *Index under this name*, the comparatively obscure fruit described on page 79 being the only "*Golden Pippin*" so honored.

The apple described on page 117, and called *Baltimore*, without any synonyms, is the same apple that on page 214 is called *Gloria Mundi*, with half a dozen synonyms; and, by the way, one of the synonyms is *Baltimore*. Of this apple, I propose, on a future occasion, to give you a more particular account. It is a native of Maryland, and the true name is the "*Baltimore*" apple. It is a variety well known to your correspondent, and the son of the gentleman on whose farm the original tree grew, is now living in this city."

**RED BLAZE CORN.**—On the farm of Benjamin Fowle, in the town of Moscow, Hillsdale county, we examined a fine field of corn of the Red Blaze variety, which was nearly ripe on the 20th. Sept. It is a twelve rowed variety, white, with the grain a bright red at the end where exposed to the sun. Many of the ears were from fifteen to eighteen inches in length, and well filled with corn to the very end. The stalk is of medium size, not so large and tall as the Dent, but larger than the eight rowed yellow, and the King Philip. It yielded fodder of a better quality, than the Dent, as the stalks are not so coarse.

**RUFA BAGAS IN MACOMB.**—The *Romeo Argus* notes that

Mr. Geo. W. Green of Mount Vernon Macomb county, raised on half an acre, four hundred bushels of Rutabagas the past season. He will find them beneficial this winter.

**CAN SUGAR BE MADE FROM THE SORGHUM SYRUP?**—This question is still mooted throughout the agricultural press. Messrs. Belcher & Co., extensive sugar refiners, it is asserted have stated that it was impossible to grain the syrup of the Chinese Sugar Cane. On the contrary the German-town Telegraph of Nov. 25, says: "Mr. Lovering, of the well-known firm of J. F. Lovering & Co., perhaps the most extensive, as they certainly are the most celebrated, sugar-refiners in this country—has made from canes grown upon his own premises, in this ward, as we are informed, an excellent article of sugar, dry of beautiful color; and he estimates that the cane will produce one thousand pounds per acre."

The editor of the Telegraph, hopes to have a detailed account of the process from Mr. Lovering, which he will publish.

Amongst the articles of utility shown at the State Fair was an unloading tackle and fork for unloading hay, by Mr. Abram Fisher of Redford, which we shall describe more at length in the season when it will prove useful.

We call attention to the liberal terms of credit offered by S. Ostrander of Ypsilanti to those wanting sleighs. In this description of vehicles Mr. Ostrander bore off the first premium at the State Fair. We have examined a great deal of his work, and have found it of a strength, material and finish, which renders it well worthy of inspection by those who desire to purchase, and his offer is certainly adapted to the times.

**FARM ACCOUNTS.**—W. D. Cochran, Esq., the well known principal of the Commercial Institute, has recently devised a system of Book keeping, adapted to the use of farmers. This system we have examined as far as we have yet had opportunity, and find that by it farm accounts are simplified, whilst the most ordinary knowledge of accounts will enable one to know at any time how he stands, or how much his crops or his stock stand him, up to the time when he wants to strike a balance.

Mr. Cochran is now having blank books prepared which any farmer can purchase, and thus avail himself of the method at once, at a low rate. This system was exhibited at the State Fair of New York and was awarded the large medal of the Society, besides being particularly commended as worthy of general adoption for its simplicity and thoroughness. We hope Mr. Cochran may meet with the success he deserves in getting these blanks generally adopted.

Mr. Miller's notes on Millet are on file for publication.

The Index to Volume Fifteen is crowded out this month, but will appear with the January number.

The Prospectus of the SATURDAY EVENING POST, one of the best family newspapers in the country, will be found on the last page.

Those who have large quantities of cornstalks, should read the advertisement of Messrs. Felt of Brooklyn, Jackson county, in this number of the *Farmer*. Their machine has taken the chief premiums at all our exhibitions this year. We hope to be able to speak more directly of its merits in another number.

The University at Ann Arbor is desirous of procuring for the library volumes one and six of the *Michigan Farmer*, for which a liberal price will be paid. We should be pleased to furnish them ourselves, as a gift, but cannot for the reason we never had a copy of either volume, and have not as yet been able to procure a set of the earlier volumes for our own use.

**STOCK IN KENT COUNTY.**—We find in the Grand Rapids Enquirer a notice of Shorthorns introduced by W. S. H.

Welton into Kent county. This stock was purchased from J. B. Crippen of Coldwater. One of the animals is the young bull Baron Balco, of which we gave a notice in the *Farmer* of July last. He was, when we saw him just ten months old, and weighed 863 pounds, and for size, symmetry, and quality was then one of the finest young animals in this State. Mr. Welton also has a heifer named Minne-ha-ha, from Mr. Beal's Haymaker; we have not the pleasure of her acquaintance, but hope to see her soon as the Directors are able to drive a locomotive into Grand Rapids. Besides Shorthorns, Mr. Welton is raising some fine Leicester sheep, and Essex hogs, both varieties of stock which will be found valuable additions of the Grand River Valley.

**THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.**—The Messrs Emery & Co., of Chicago, have started a weekly newspaper, to be devoted to the spread of Agricultural science. The first number has a fine appearance, and we hope they will succeed, though it is rather a bad season to start a new journal of the kind, with another in the field of the same kind, complaining of a want of support. Last year Mr. Wright, said the Prairie Farmer ran behind, \$4,000, and we do not doubt it in the least.

### Error Corrected.

In the Vermont Stock Journal for October, the publisher notices the sale of a celebrated Morgan Horse, "Searcher," for \$3000. This horse is a half brother to Hambletonian owned by F. E. Eldred, Farmington. Searcher was sired by G. Barney's Hatch Hill Henry, who was sired by the imported horse Signal—no Morgan blood there—and the mare was a half blood Morgan. All the rage being for Morgan horses when he stood, the owner headed his bill MORGAN STALLION, but whoever saw a Morgan Horse 16½ hands high and well proportioned, and trot in 2.40? The publisher of the Stock Journal being a Morgan horse man is willing to steal Morgan thunder wherever he can find it.

### Book Notices.

*Rural Affairs*, by J. J. Thomas, Published by Luther Tucker & Son, Albany, N. Y., is a neat and handsomely printed volume, illustrated with 440 engravings, which treats of the laying out of grounds, the planning of country buildings, the planting of orchards, the treatment of flowers, the raising of domestic animals, and a general synopsis of rural processes of all kinds. It is a book from which many useful hints can be gathered. The author is one of the most practical and reliable writers on either agriculture or horticulture, which we have, and his style is plain and to the point. He illustrates all he says with excellent engravings. The work is for sale by Wm. B. Howe, of Detroit.

*The Rural Annual* is a neat pamphlet giving a great variety of information, on farming and gardening. Joseph T. Harris of the Genesee Farmer is the author. It is profusely illustrated with engravings. Price 25 cents.

### Our Note Book.

During the past month we made some notes on farming in Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Jackson, and St. Joseph counties, which we have not yet had time to write out nor room to insert. They will appear in the January and February numbers. Some of the farms we visited well repaid us, and perhaps our visit may repay the farmers who entertained us so hospitably, as we hope to make these visits, which will be extended to every portion of the State, useful and profitable to our readers. As an instance of the advantage of them, we point to the notice of Mr. Kelliher's Ayrshire cattle. We can safely say that not twenty farmers knew that there was a first rate Ayrshire animal in the State, until we told them in the present number of the *Farmer*.

The Sewing Machine of Wheeler & Wilson is all that the agents state in their advertisement. We have seen it at work, and the quality of the stitching done by it was equal to the finest needlework done by the best seamstress. It is admirable!





# PROSPECTUS FOR 1858.

## SATURDAY EVENING POST.

ESTABLISHED AUGUST 4, 1821.

THE PAPER THAT NEVER SUSPENDS.

A Family Weekly—Devoted to Literature and the News.

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